

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

3 ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al. :
4 v. : CIVIL ACTION
5 : NO. 24-3993
6 BLACKBAUD, INC., et al. :
7 ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al. :
8 v. : CIVIL ACTION
9 : NO. 24-3998
10 WHITEPAGES, INC., et al. :
11 ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al. :
12 v. : CIVIL ACTION
13 : NO. 24-4000
14 HIYA, INC., et al. :
15 ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al. :
16 v. : CIVIL ACTION
17 : NO. 24-4037
18 WE INFORM, LLC :
19

18 | May 7, 2024

19 | STATUS CONFERENCE

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24 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography; transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

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24	WILAND, INC., et al.	:	NO. 24-4442
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13	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.	:	
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15		:	NO. 24-5334
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20	PROPERTYRADAR, INC., et al.	:	
21	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.	:	
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23		:	NO. 24-5656
24	THE ALESCO GROUP, L.L.C.	:	
25		:	

Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse
4th & Cooper Streets
Camden, New Jersey 08101
May 7, 2024
Commencing at 1:57 p.m.

B E F O R E: THE HONORABLE HARVEY BARTLE, III,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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16 **A L S O P R E S E N T:**

17 DAVID BRUEY, Courtroom Deputy

18 - - -

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1 (PROCEEDINGS held in open court before The Honorable
2 HARVEY BARTLE, III at 1:57 p.m.)

3 THE COURT: Good afternoon. You may be seated.

4 Good afternoon. As you all know, we're here for a
5 status conference in connection with the 71 Daniel's Law cases
6 and also deal with the case of John Doe v. LexisNexis, which
7 is not one of the Daniel's Law cases.

8 There are a number of matters we need to cover today,
9 and I think we should start with the motions to remand.

10 Let's discuss that subject. I don't know, we have 39
11 of those. And I know there were several cases where I gave
12 you a little more time because they were removed later.

13 Have those been dealt with also?

14 MR. SHAW: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

16 MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw for plaintiffs.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MR. SHAW: Yes. We've filed --

19 THE COURT: Covered the bases.

20 MR. SHAW: -- almost all of them. All of them.

21 THE COURT: All right. So the question then is how
22 we should deal with those. And I think we should talk about
23 that issue first since it deals with subject matter
24 jurisdiction.

25 There is a question that has been raised on whether

1 there should be discovery in connection with those.

2 Is there anyone who wishes to address that subject?

3 MR. STIO: Your Honor, I will.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. STIO: Your Honor, we submitted a letter to the
6 Court --

7 My name is Angelo Stio. I represent many of the
8 defendants.

9 THE COURT: Yes. I've read it.

10 MR. STIO: There are about 54 defendants who signed
11 on to that letter.

12 We've discussed the motions for remand, and we think
13 that the best way to proceed is to stay those while the
14 parties focus their effort on the constitutional challenges.
15 And I say that because the facial constitutional challenges
16 deal with a potentially dispositive issue. All the cases
17 could go away.

18 Two, we have a number of parties here or defendants
19 who have personal jurisdiction arguments, motions to compel
20 arbitration and a slew of other motions for 12(b). And
21 there's a concern about waiver by dealing with any type of
22 discovery.

23 And then we also note --

24 THE COURT: Well, we're talking about subject matter
25 jurisdiction. That's different than other issues, isn't it?

1 MR. STIO: Subject matter jurisdiction is different.

2 THE COURT: That's a --

3 MR. STIO: But there is discovery that is going to be
4 involved in that. There could be discovery fights. I know
5 lawyers don't typically do that, but sometimes we do. And I
6 think that there's a real concern of spending significant
7 time, effort, and resources when we would like to focus on
8 sequencing, which the Court at least indicated they wanted to
9 go down that route, on a dispositive issue that could result
10 in the cases going away.

11 THE COURT: But there's no reason why we can't
12 proceed on two tracks, and particularly when you're talking
13 about subject matter jurisdiction. There are 39 cases where
14 that's an issue, so that's a pretty important matter. So I
15 don't know why we can't go down two tracks, deal with remand
16 and also deal with a motion facially challenging the
17 constitutionality of Daniel's Law.

18 MR. STIO: I think that from an efficiency
19 standpoint, it could result in a lot of briefs. It's going to
20 result in discovery, because for the defendants' side, we are
21 going to need discovery on --

22 THE COURT: Let's talk about the discovery on the
23 remand.

24 I know the issue of collusion has been raised.

25 MR. STIO: Correct.

1 THE COURT: And also the question about the number of
2 plaintiffs in terms of CAFA.

3 MR. STIO: Correct.

4 THE COURT: And that all is intertwined with the
5 issue of assignments.

6 MR. STIO: Correct.

7 THE COURT: So why can't that all be dealt with in
8 terms of expedited discovery? In other words, what would you
9 need in terms of discovery on remand?

10 MR. STIO: Sure.

11 THE COURT: Let's just talk about that.

12 MR. STIO: So, Your Honor, if we were going to do
13 that, I think -- and I'll start with four buckets, right, of
14 discovery, based on what was in the consolidated --

15 THE COURT: Right.

16 MR. STIO: -- motion for remand.

17 One is the *Long John Silver* factors. They cited the
18 case in their brief. And they talk about a number of factors.
19 And we would want, in addition to documents related to the
20 assignment, we need to know, you know, what other documents
21 exist.

22 And I say that because if you look at the assignment
23 that they produced, the assignment they produced is from
24 February 4, 2024.

25 They sent out all their notices with regard to the

1 cases here in December and January.

2 THE COURT: December of '23?

3 MR. STIO: Of 2023 and January 2024.

4 THE COURT: You say the model form was dated February
5 of 2024?

6 MR. STIO: February the 4th, 2024. And I believe
7 it's Exhibit E to the plaintiffs' counsel's certification.

8 So there's going to be other documents. Or -- and
9 they can say there aren't any other documents, and these
10 people, 20,000 of them signed up to something that they had no
11 idea what they were signing up for. But we need information
12 on that.

13 We need information under the *Long John Silver*
14 factors of a motive of Atlas.

15 We need information about whether or not --

16 THE COURT: Motive for bringing the lawsuit?

17 MR. STIO: Correct.

18 And the assignments. And then whether Atlas had any
19 independent interest that predated the assignment. Again,
20 that's a *Long John Silver* factor.

21 But as we go down this path, Your Honor, there's
22 personal jurisdiction arguments. And we're getting into a lot
23 of discovery on issues that the parties are going to be
24 concerned about.

25 THE COURT: Let's focus on subject matter

1 jurisdiction for a moment.

2 MR. STIO: Okay.

3 THE COURT: The assignments. Now, there are a lot of
4 plaintiffs. I'll call them plaintiffs just as a lay term. A
5 lot of law enforcement officials, I'll call them, who made
6 assignments to Atlas.

7 Now, I don't know that it would be necessary to get
8 every one of those assignments, but you certainly need copies
9 of whatever types of assignments that they were using at the
10 relevant time, wouldn't you?

11 MR. STIO: Correct. So, Your Honor, we need copies
12 of, among other things, the terms of use. They gave us terms
13 of use from February 4, 2024. We need all the iterations that
14 have been used. And we --

15 THE COURT: I know we used that term when we were
16 here before.

17 Refresh my recollection, is that the assignment?

18 MR. STIO: Yeah. The assignment is contained in the
19 terms of use. So what they have -- they produced as an
20 Exhibit E is a document that's called Daniel's Law terms of
21 use.

22 THE COURT: Right.

23 MR. STIO: And within that Daniel's Law terms of use
24 is a provision that purports to be an assignment.

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. STIO: But --

2 THE COURT: Now, are we talking about one form for
3 this whole period of time?

4 Maybe, Mr. Shaw, you can answer that.

5 Or was this changed over the relevant period?

6 MR. SHAW: One form, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: One form. All right. Used for all
8 thousand or whatever the number is.

9 MR. SHAW: The terms of service, yes. And then the
10 assignment confirmation, yes.

11 MR. MAO: Your Honor --

12 THE COURT: The same one document?

13 MR. MAO: Mr. Mao for the plaintiffs.

14 Assignment provisions are completely unchanged for
15 the entire period that counsel --

16 THE COURT: I understand.

17 We're talking, the assignment is included in the
18 terms of use. And what Mr. Shaw has told me is that the form
19 of assignment and the form of the term of use was the same
20 during the relevant time period involved in these cases.

21 Is that correct?

22 MR. MAO: Yeah. Your Honor, pursuant to your order
23 from the last hearing, you ordered us to produce the relevant
24 assignment provisions and terms, and that's exactly what we
25 did.

1 THE COURT: Give us your name, please.

2 MR. MAO: Mr. Mao, Mark Mao, Boies Schiller Flexner,
3 for the plaintiffs. Thank you.

4 MR. STIO: So, Your Honor, if the only assignment is
5 the assignment dated February 4, 2024 --

6 THE COURT: Right.

7 MR. STIO: -- I understand what you're saying.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 MR. STIO: However --

10 THE COURT: And, obviously, that is a relevant
11 document, according to your view, for subject matter
12 jurisdiction.

13 MR. STIO: Not according to my view, no.

14 THE COURT: Well --

15 MR. STIO: If they're saying it's the only
16 document --

17 THE COURT: Oh, I understand. I agree.

18 MR. STIO: -- they're not going to say that there's a
19 document that they used --

20 (Court reporter clarification.)

21 MR. STIO: They're not going to say that there's a
22 document that they used or any of these covered people signed
23 before February 4, 2024, okay.

24 THE COURT: Well, simply because the document you've
25 received is dated February 4th doesn't mean it wasn't the same

1 document that was used in December or any other time. I don't
2 know -- I haven't studied the document.

3 But they are representing as officers of the court
4 that there is one term of use document which includes the
5 assignment form. It's just one document. They haven't
6 changed it.

7 Law Enforcement Officer X didn't sign a different
8 document than Law Enforcement Officer Y. That's what they're
9 telling me.

10 MR. STIO: Your Honor, I understand that.

11 THE COURT: Now, I'm just trying to determine about
12 discovery.

13 MR. STIO: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: Now, you and I aren't inside the Atlas
15 office. Discovery depends on the good faith of people. And
16 if they tell me that's the only document and they tell you
17 that's the only document, that's the only document, unless we
18 learn to the contrary.

19 And if we do learn to the contrary, there will be
20 serious consequences.

21 MR. SHAW: Let me just say, my colleagues just tell
22 me that there was one slight tweak in the document, but we
23 will make both of those available. It did not affect the
24 assignment.

25 MR. STIO: Your Honor, let me --

1 (Court reporter clarification.)

2 THE COURT: No, wait a minute.

3 Listen. Let's get your act together. Tell me --

4 MR. SHAW: It did not affect the assignment. It was
5 some other part of the terms of service. But we want to make
6 that clear.

7 THE COURT: What I am saying, Mr. Shaw, you told me
8 that there was one term of use and one assignment. They were
9 all the same for all thousands of law enforcement officers who
10 made assignments.

11 Now you're telling me that it's slightly different.

12 Now, which is it?

13 MR. MAO: Your Honor, the terms of use, I believe,
14 was updated once.

15 THE COURT: Was --

16 MR. MAO: The terms of use was updated once, I
17 believe, maybe twice. The -- how do I explain this?

18 Atlas's service has been around even a year before
19 the lawsuits began, because they started -- the service
20 actually started with a removal --

21 THE COURT: I'm not interested in that.

22 MR. MAO: Right. All I'm simply saying, Your Honor,
23 is the assignment provision has never changed, which is what
24 was ordered to be produced.

25 THE COURT: That's somewhat different than what

1 Mr. Shaw told me; is that correct?

2 MR. MAO: No. It's what I was trying to explain,
3 Your Honor. I apologize.

4 THE COURT: It is different from what Mr. Shaw told
5 me.

6 Now, you can correct it, but isn't that right?

7 MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor. The terms of service
8 changed slightly, so there is two versions of it.

9 THE COURT: Right. What I'm trying to get at here is
10 what type of discovery is going to be needed for a remand
11 motion. You know, is it thousands of different assignments
12 and terms? Because ultimately, if we decide to go forward,
13 you're going to have to produce it. And I want that to be
14 done. And if there are two different documents or five, but
15 they all have to be produced. And with dates when the changes
16 were made. Understand?

17 MR. SHAW: Absolutely, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. Now, that's --

19 What else, Mr. Stio?

20 I'm just trying to -- look.

21 MR. STIO: Yeah.

22 THE COURT: I want to deal with remand. I want to
23 determine what type of discovery would be needed in terms of a
24 remand motion, because it's likely we may go forward with
25 that.

1 Is it going to be -- is it going to take five years
2 to do all this, or is it going to be -- okay.

3 MR. STIO: Your Honor, the other thing that we
4 need -- so we want the versions of the terms of use.

5 THE COURT: I agree with that.

6 MR. STIO: The terms of use reference documents
7 within those terms that relate to the relationship. There are
8 privacy policies that are referenced and linked in the terms
9 of use and --

10 THE COURT: In other words, you want -- you would
11 want all documents that are referenced in the terms of use or
12 in the assignment, which makes perfect sense.

13 MR. STIO: Correct.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. STIO: And then, Your Honor, the other thing that
16 we want is -- the way that this works, what I think works,
17 based on what I read, is there's a registration process. And
18 that's also outlined in the terms of use in Section 2.

19 We would want to see -- and we don't need it for
20 everyone; they can make a representation everyone went through
21 this process -- but the screenshots of the entire process of
22 what a law enforcement official will see when they log in,
23 what disclosures are made to that law enforcement official
24 when they go through that process. And it's something that is
25 done in a lot of these cases, the screenshots of every step of

1 the process for the registration.

2 THE COURT: Would that be difficult to produce,
3 Mr. Shaw?

4 MR. PARIKH: Your Honor --

5 THE COURT: Your name.

6 MR. PARIKH: Yes, Your Honor. Raj Parikh, PEM Law,
7 on behalf of plaintiffs.

8 So I think it would be difficult to produce, Your
9 Honor. We can check with our client.

10 But the screenshots of someone registering for a
11 privacy tool is unrelated to the issue of assignments, which
12 is the subject matter jurisdiction issue that the defendants
13 have raised.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. PARIKH: And I agree with Your Honor on terms of
16 use, but in terms of the registration process for someone to
17 sign up for a service, it's unrelated to the assignments
18 essentially.

19 THE COURT: What else would you -- Mr. Stio, just so
20 I can get some understanding of what discovery would be
21 needed.

22 MR. STIO: The terms of use reference subscription
23 tiers. So there's different levels of relationship with Atlas
24 between these covered people and Atlas. And that's on page 58
25 of what the filing was. But they talk about subscription

1 tiers.

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MR. STIO: And it's relevant for a couple reasons.

4 One is the services or the impact of the assignment.

5 Two, one of the levels they talk about are what the
6 individual plaintiffs here have. So the individual plaintiffs
7 somehow did not give an assignment, according to their
8 documents, to Atlas. What type of disclosures and what
9 process did they go through, and how is that different than
10 what --

11 THE COURT: That has nothing to do with subject
12 matter jurisdiction. They're plaintiffs. They're named
13 plaintiffs, so --

14 MR. STIO: But here's why I think it goes to who are
15 the real parties in interest. And I know that they have given
16 us a document that says these covered people retain a
17 65 percent interest in the recovery less attorneys' fees and
18 expenses. And Atlas would get the 35 percent.

19 But what rights do these named plaintiffs have, and
20 how are they able to go through the same automated process and
21 not have an assignment?

22 THE COURT: Well, I don't see that.

23 MR. STIO: Okay.

24 THE COURT: Now, also, in terms of documents, I think
25 it seems pretty clear what you're certainly going to need

1 here. And you're going to need a 30(b) (6) deposition clearly
2 of somebody from Atlas.

3 MR. STIO: Correct, Your Honor.

4 There may be a deposition that we would want of
5 someone or one or two of the covered persons to verify some of
6 the allegations that are in their motion for remand.

7 THE COURT: What do you mean, the covered persons?
8 You mean --

9 MR. STIO: The people who are the assignees.

10 THE COURT: No. You mean the assignors?

11 MR. STIO: Assignors, sorry, Your Honor, yeah.

12 And their papers talk about communications and
13 disclosures that were made to the New Jersey PBA, the New
14 Jersey State Troopers Association, there's a Metropolitan
15 Transit Association, and how they led to the process of
16 getting these assignments, what disclosures were made, what
17 was said about the rights that the individuals have, the
18 rights that Atlas have.

19 Then it gets back to real party in interest and
20 whether or not there is subject matter jurisdiction.

21 We think we have subject matter jurisdiction. And we
22 think that these will bear on that and show it.

23 And then, Your Honor, again, I can't stress enough,
24 because I've beaten over the head by it, by some of my other
25 co-defendants, there can't be a waiver of personal

1 jurisdiction or any motion to compel arbitration.

2 THE COURT: Of course not. Of course not, there
3 wouldn't be any waiver.

4 MR. STIO: Okay.

5 THE COURT: Any time -- I mean, this isn't an unusual
6 situation. I've had many cases where subject matter
7 jurisdiction and diversity, potentially a diversity action has
8 been raised.

9 So what do you do? Is you just take discovery on
10 subject matter jurisdiction and everything else is held in
11 abeyance. The Court rules on whether there's subject matter
12 jurisdiction.

13 If there is, then we go forward with all the other
14 issues, venue and personal jurisdiction and 12(b) (6) motions.

15 And if there is no subject matter jurisdiction, the
16 case is either dismissed or remanded back to the state court.
17 There's nothing complicated about that.

18 So where would the waiver come in if you deal with
19 subject matter jurisdiction?

20 MR. STIO: I just wanted it clear that there isn't
21 any --

22 THE COURT: I can't imagine --

23 MR. STIO: Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Because that's --

25 MR. STIO: And then, Your Honor, I have one other

1 thing --

2 THE COURT: Yeah.

3 MR. STIO: -- before I let any other defendants
4 speak.

5 There is a provision in the terms of use entitled
6 consent to receive communications. And it talks about Atlas
7 communicating with these individuals related to terms of the
8 agreement, notices, disclosures and other communications.

9 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

10 MR. STIO: We would want any of those communications
11 that are referenced or the subject of --

12 THE COURT: Every communication with every assignor?

13 MR. STIO: No. Related to the subject matter
14 jurisdiction, which would be assignments, the assignment
15 confirmations, and the rights and recovery that's at issue
16 here.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Shaw, let's -- let me just hear from
18 Mr. Shaw --

19 MR. STIO: Sure.

20 THE COURT: -- on what discovery would be needed
21 here.

22 MR. SHAW: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: I know in your motion to remand, you say
24 there's no possibility of collusion, but I think the
25 defendants would have a right to deal with that.

1 MR. SHAW: Well, in some way, but we can't divorce
2 the context from the situation.

3 THE COURT: No. I understand.

4 MR. SHAW: And we're saying, you know, you would have
5 to suspend belief to think that the officers colluded to have
6 some random set of people lose jurisdiction.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. SHAW: I mean, as we've said, we don't mind being
9 in this court.

10 THE COURT: Right.

11 MR. SHAW: But we can't just consent to jurisdiction.

12 THE COURT: No. I understand.

13 MR. SHAW: So that's why I think a lot of this
14 discovery goes too fair afield, really.

15 I mean, they have the assignment, and we have one
16 other version we're going to give them.

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MR. SHAW: They have that. So they have all of the
19 terms of it.

20 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

21 MR. SHAW: Getting it to a 30(b) (6) of motive doesn't
22 seem to -- doesn't seem to make sense, again, because, you
23 know, how are you going to get the motive of this massive
24 group of people, number one.

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. SHAW: But, number two, it doesn't make sense in
2 this context. It just --

3 THE COURT: Right.

4 MR. SHAW: You know, in an individual case with a
5 couple of defendants, it makes sense. But it just doesn't in
6 this context.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. SHAW: And all of that can be gleaned from the
9 documents we've already gave them.

10 To the extent that there's a date or something like
11 that, where they want to find out, when did the assignment
12 take place or something, that's something we can stipulate to.
13 We don't have a problem with that.

14 THE COURT: But if you produced or either have
15 produced or will produce the terms of use, whatever versions
16 you used during the relevant time period, and the assignment
17 which you say hasn't changed, and then a 30(b) (6) deposition
18 of someone at Atlas, I'm just wondering what else there would
19 need to be at this point.

20 I know that there's the CAFA issue of whether there's
21 a hundred individuals and whether the assignors can be
22 considered --

23 MR. SHAW: Right.

24 THE COURT: That may be -- I mean, maybe there's some
25 facts that have to be elicited, but that's really more of a

1 matter of law, it seems to me.

2 MR. SHAW: I agree, Your Honor.

3 As to the CAFA, we could stipulate that it's more
4 than a hundred people that's involved. If the Court were to
5 even consider them -- I mean, there's more than a hundred
6 assignors, without a doubt, so that would be easy to --

7 THE COURT: You would agree that there's more than a
8 hundred?

9 MR. STIO: Yes, Your Honor.

10 MR. SHAW: Right.

11 THE COURT: So that's really not an issue here. It's
12 just --

13 MR. SHAW: Right. And I don't even think they need a
14 30(b) (6) on motive, because you could glean it and you could
15 discern it from the facts. The assignment is what it is. You
16 can see -- you can see the assignment. You can see the
17 termination. And I think as Your Honor will see in the case
18 law, the courts say, you know, whether the assignment was real
19 or effective under state law is meaningless to this -- or is
20 not dispositive or really informative to the decision Your
21 Honor has to make. You're trying to figure out whether there
22 was a sham.

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. SHAW: And, you know --

25 THE COURT: That's the issue.

1 MR. SHAW: That's the issue. And if you look at the
2 context here, again, you would have to suspend disbelief to
3 suggest that there's a sham.

4 But I don't think you need to get into those far
5 afield facts. They have the assignment. If they want to say
6 the assignment, you know, has terms in it that result in X,
7 let them say that. They have it.

8 THE COURT: Apparently the terms of use makes
9 reference to some additional documents?

10 MR. SHAW: Yeah. But those, my understanding, do not
11 relate to the assignment. There's a privacy terms he
12 mentioned. I'm not sure what other things they're trying to
13 get at. But I don't think that those tend to prove or
14 disprove whether there was a sham.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Stio, what about that?

16 MR. STIO: Your Honor, the other documents include --

17 THE COURT: Please rise when you speak.

18 MR. STIO: Oh, I'm sorry, Your Honor.

19 Your Honor, I'm not trying to go in full-blown
20 discovery.

21 They've given us a document that says terms of use.

22 It incorporates by reference other documents --

23 THE COURT: All right.

24 MR. STIO: -- including the privacy policy, the terms
25 of indemnification insurance that they provide here. All I

1 want is to be able to analyze what they say is the operative
2 document and what documents are incorporated within it.

3 THE COURT: So if you got all the documents that are
4 incorporated by reference -- you know, I can't tell at this
5 point whether they're relevant or not -- and you had those,
6 and you had a 30(b) (6) deposition, why wouldn't that be
7 enough?

8 Let's move this along.

9 MR. STIO: Yeah. The other thing we need is just the
10 assignment confirmation, but I think they said there's only
11 one and they produced it.

12 THE COURT: So if we did that, we could get whatever
13 facts you can glean. And then the responses can be filed.
14 And that shouldn't take too long.

15 I assume whatever documents that have not yet been
16 produced can be produced promptly.

17 MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw for plaintiffs. Yes, Your
18 Honor.

19 THE COURT: In a few days?

20 MR. SHAW: Yes.

21 MR. STIO: Your Honor, the only other thing that you
22 didn't mention -- and I think they said it was -- I think they
23 said they would produce it -- are the screenshots of the
24 process.

25 THE COURT: Well, I don't know that that's going to

1 be necessary at this point.

2 But let me hear from other counsel.

3 MR. STIO: Sure.

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

5 MR. KIMREY: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Blaine
6 Kimrey from Whitepages and Hiya. How are you doing?

7 THE COURT: Hi.

8 MR. KIMREY: Good to see you. May it please the
9 Court.

10 So the lodestar is the terms and conditions. And
11 Mr. Stio has highlighted that these terms and conditions
12 actually post-date the suppression requests that were made, so
13 that's why we thought there were other terms and conditions.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. KIMREY: Because how could terms and conditions
16 apply to something that happened before the terms and
17 conditions were adopted?

18 So we now know that there's at least one other
19 version of these terms and conditions, which we'll now get,
20 and we'll get all versions of the terms and conditions --

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MR. KIMREY: -- if there are multiple versions.

23 The terms and conditions, as with many contracts,
24 cross-reference a bunch of other terms and conditions. These
25 are terms and conditions not only of Atlas but also of other

1 entities that Atlas says the terms and conditions apply to.

2 These terms and conditions apply to the assignors.

3 THE COURT: Right.

4 MR. KIMREY: So we -- and these are terms and
5 conditions that the assignors are supposed to be on notice of,
6 so these are not state secrets, they're not trade secrets.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. KIMREY: So we should be able to get all of
9 those.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. KIMREY: Additionally -- so I think we've covered
12 all of that.

13 The one thing I wanted to add --

14 THE COURT: Yeah.

15 MR. KIMREY: -- was that Atlas also has other terms
16 and conditions on its website.

17 So we've discovered that there are terms and
18 conditions that are not these terms and conditions that are on
19 the website that purport to apply to the assignors. So we
20 want all of those terms and conditions as well, which are not
21 cross-referenced here but are on the website.

22 THE COURT: Right.

23 MR. KIMREY: We also want all versions of the privacy
24 policy that's cross-referenced in those terms and conditions,
25 which are not necessarily -- although we don't know, we

1 haven't seen it -- referred to in these.

2 So basically we just want all of the terms and
3 conditions over the relevant period of time that apply to
4 these assignors and may color the rights of them in
5 assigning -- allegedly assigning these claims to Atlas.

6 Because, Your Honor, if just these terms and
7 conditions that were produced as Exhibit E of the consolidated
8 motion to remand --

9 THE COURT: Right.

10 MR. KIMREY: -- were the only terms and conditions,
11 then the assignments arguably are all invalid, because the
12 terms and conditions post-date the suppression requests that
13 were made.

14 So we're just trying to get to the bottom of that.

15 THE COURT: All right. I understand. That's fine.

16 MR. KIMREY: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: I think we all understand each other
18 that -- produce all copies of the terms of use that were in
19 effect during the relevant time period, including any
20 documents referenced or policies referenced in those
21 documents.

22 MR. KIMREY: As well as, Your Honor, just to be
23 clear, any other separate terms and conditions applicable to
24 the assignors and --

25 THE COURT: Sure.

1 MR. KIMREY: -- their relationship with the assignee
2 and any privacy policies or any other contractual provisions
3 that apply.

4 THE COURT: I think any contractual provisions that
5 apply. Terms of use and any other terms -- contractual
6 provisions. That seems to me to make sense.

7 MR. SHAW: We could do that, Your Honor. I don't
8 know that it makes sense because I think they're very far
9 afield, but --

10 THE COURT: Well, we don't know yet.

11 MR. SHAW: Okay.

12 THE COURT: And I think it on its face sounds pretty
13 reasonable to me --

14 MR. SHAW: Okay.

15 THE COURT: -- that if we're talking about collusion,
16 we ought to have all the documents or terms of -- between the
17 assignors and the assignee, any written documents, whether
18 it's one set of documents, five sets of documents, whatever it
19 is, that are relevant.

20 MR. SHAW: Sure, Your Honor. I think some of those
21 relate to things other than the assignment, but that's -- I
22 hear you.

23 THE COURT: Well, I think at this point let's not try
24 to parse it too finely.

25 MR. SHAW: Okay.

1 THE COURT: We'll be here forever going through each
2 one. I think it makes sense that that can be done.

3 MR. SHAW: It can be.

4 THE COURT: I think we all -- and then we would
5 have -- there would be a 30(b)(6) deposition.

6 Now, what about this business about deposing an
7 assignor? Is that relevant to this issue?

8 MR. SHAW: Your Honor, Adam Shaw for the plaintiffs.

9 We don't think so.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. SHAW: Again --

12 THE COURT: I'm having trouble with that, but --

13 Mr. Stio, is that something you feel strongly about?

14 MR. STIO: Your Honor, the reason I asked for that is
15 we want to know just the understanding that the assignor had
16 here.

17 THE COURT: If the assignor has signed a contract
18 with the assignee, we're not going to get into parol evidence,
19 are we, about what the assignor understood?

20 That's what you'd be doing, wouldn't you?

21 MR. STIO: There are allegations in their papers that
22 discuss what the assignors were told and represented at the
23 time they signed up.

24 Your Honor, I think that -- look, I hear what you're
25 saying. If we can get the 30(b)(6) of Atlas and what we're

1 dealing with are the terms of the documents --

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MR. STIO: -- and there's not going to be any
4 evidence put in outside of those documents and --

5 THE COURT: That's right.

6 MR. STIO: -- the 30(b) (6), I understand what Your
7 Honor is saying.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 We have -- we want to hear from -- good afternoon.

10 MR. SZYBA: Good afternoon, Your Honor. My name is
11 Rob Szyba on behalf We Inform, The People Searchers and
12 Infomatics.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 MR. SZYBA: I just wanted to advise the Court about
15 one nuance of the District of New Jersey practice --

16 THE COURT: I'm interested in nuance.

17 MR. SZYBA: -- that may impact some of the
18 conversation here, although maybe not as much.

19 Local Rule 7.1.1 requires disclosure of third-party
20 litigation funding.

21 The only reason I bring it up is because that hasn't
22 happened in this case. It's not a discovery vehicle, so it
23 doesn't --

24 THE COURT: It requires what?

25 MR. SZYBA: It requires disclosure of third-party

1 litigation funding. So it is not a discovery vehicle. It's
2 not a discovery rule. It's really just a subpart of Rule 7.1,
3 and it's corporate disclosure requirements.

4 But we've touched on the issue of collusion and what
5 parties in this case were told or understand or how the
6 relationship formed. And we know from the complaints that
7 were filed that there are other actors that were involved in
8 the formation of this relationship, go-betweens.

9 THE COURT: Relationship between the assignors and
10 assignees?

11 MR. SZYBA: Correct. The assignors --

12 THE COURT: Right.

13 MR. SZYBA: -- are union members that somehow came
14 into this relationship by way of their union. Whether it was
15 directly or indirectly, it's unclear --

16 THE COURT: That wouldn't surprise me.

17 MR. SZYBA: That wouldn't surprise me either, Your
18 Honor, but --

19 THE COURT: The individuals may not know about all
20 the nuances of the law, so they have -- that's why the union
21 does that.

22 MR. SZYBA: That may be all be true, and that's not
23 really the point.

24 The point is, if there are other parties or other
25 entities, the local rules in the District of New Jersey

1 require disclosure of any other parties that have a financial
2 interest in the outcome of this litigation.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. SZYBA: That may create a need for additional
5 discovery, it may not, but it is a relatively procedural,
6 non-controversial rule here.

7 THE COURT: All right. Very good.

8 Anybody else want to speak about remand?

9 It seems to me we can -- we'll go forward with the
10 remand.

11 We'll write up a discovery order requiring the
12 production of the documents that we've talked about to the
13 defendants. And there will be an opportunity after that for a
14 30(b) (6) deposition of someone at Atlas.

15 Now, we have 39 motions that you filed. We're
16 obviously not going to have 39 depositions of an Atlas
17 representative, so we have to deal with that.

18 Now, I did notice that in looking at some of these,
19 that seven of the motions are for defendants who are
20 represented by Mr. Stio; is that correct? I think seven out
21 of your 11 clients face a motion to remand.

22 MR. STIO: That's correct, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: So that's roughly one-fifth of the group.

24 And I don't know whether we can agree that you would
25 take the lead on that, because you have seven.

1 Is there anyone else who has more than seven
2 defendants on the remand issue?

3 Nobody is raising a hand.

4 That we could start with that, and then maybe we
5 could have some procedure where the discovery would be done
6 and the -- which would be produced to all 39.

7 You would take the 30(b) (6) deposition, would obtain
8 an expedited transcript, provide it to all other defendants
9 who have -- are facing motions to remand, and that those
10 defendants would have a period of time in which to petition or
11 move me for the right to take -- ask additional questions of
12 the 30(b) (6) deponent so that they would have a further
13 opportunity.

14 I don't know another way of doing it. I'm not going
15 to have 39 depositions.

16 Does that make sense?

17 MR. SHAW: Your Honor --

18 THE COURT: Does anybody object to that?

19 Yeah.

20 MR. SHAW: Your Honor, Adam Shaw.

21 I think that's a good way.

22 But would it also be okay if the other defendants,
23 you know, listened in and perhaps suggested their --

24 THE COURT: Absolutely.

25 MR. SHAW: -- questions to Mr. Stio at the time

1 rather than come back to the Court, in case there's just a few
2 questions.

3 THE COURT: Maybe that would be a better procedure to
4 do it that way. All 39 of you can gather in a conference room
5 somewhere, the lawyers for the other 31 defendants, and pass
6 questions.

7 Do you want to do it that way?

8 MR. STIO: Your Honor, what I would suggest is maybe
9 the defense group will get together, we would have three
10 people representing the questions.

11 THE COURT: Fine.

12 MR. STIO: We'll still have -- it wouldn't be three
13 separate depositions, but let us almost have like a committee
14 for this. We'll try to get all the questions down --

15 THE COURT: That's fine.

16 MR. STIO: -- issue the expedited transcript. And if
17 there are things that we miss, they can petition the Court.
18 But that's the way I think maybe we can do it.

19 THE COURT: That makes perfect sense, Mr. Shaw, if we
20 do it that way?

21 MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw for plaintiffs.

22 That's fine, Your Honor. And hopefully, you know,
23 with the admonition that the questions are limited to this
24 subject matter jurisdiction issue and not --

25 THE COURT: That goes without saying, that it be

1 limited to subject matter jurisdiction.

2 MR. SHAW: Thank you.

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 MR. KIMREY: Blaine Kimrey again, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Yeah. You want to be part of the
6 committee?

7 MR. KIMREY: Federal default limit of seven hours on
8 the record?

9 THE COURT: Well, it should be limited to that unless
10 you get permission from the Court.

11 MR. KIMREY: Okay. I just wanted to clarify.

12 THE COURT: Oh, yes. Definitely.

13 All right. So I'll fashion an order to that effect.

14 Now, let's -- do we need to have a request for
15 production? Do you want to serve that?

16 I know we've talked about it within a certain period
17 of time, limited to the -- as we've described it here,
18 Mr. Stio.

19 MR. STIO: Yeah, Your Honor.

20 We can either serve that, or if the Court would like,
21 we can submit a draft order for you to look at, and it would
22 have the request.

23 THE COURT: Why don't we do this: Why don't you
24 submit a draft request for production of documents to me
25 within a couple of days.

1 And then, Mr. Shaw, you can look at it, see if there
2 are any objections.

3 And consistent with what we've talked about here now.
4 I don't want to reargue the whole thing.

5 So today is -- why don't you submit it to me -- today
6 is what, Tuesday? Why don't you get it to me by 3:00 on
7 Thursday.

8 Can you do that?

9 MR. STIO: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Is that too soon?

11 MR. KIMREY: There are a lot of lawyers who are going
12 to be providing input on that, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Well, see --

14 MR. KIMREY: That's fine. We can do it.

15 THE COURT: Maybe I'll -- then I'll just have to --

16 MR. KIMREY: Never mind.

17 THE COURT: We need to move this along. And if we're
18 going to have --

19 MR. STIO: We'll get it done by Thursday.

20 THE COURT: Maybe I'll just draft it.

21 I'll tell you what we'll do. Why don't you, Mr. Stio
22 and Mr. Shaw, get together and submit something to me by
23 Thursday afternoon at 3:00 on what would be the request for
24 production of documents. And you can send it out to everybody
25 else. And everybody else can look at it, see if you can come

1 up with an agreement. And Monday morning I'll put in an
2 order.

3 If anybody has any objection, get it to me by 10:00
4 on Monday morning. Email it, whatever. Okay? So we're going
5 to move this along.

6 So Monday morning, I'll enter the discovery -- or
7 Monday at some point I'll enter the discovery order.

8 And then you'll have five days to respond. You can
9 start working on it now.

10 And then within 15 days thereafter, take the 30(b)(6)
11 deposition.

12 And then what we'll say is that within maybe a couple
13 weeks after that, three weeks maybe, the motion -- the
14 response to the motion to remand be filed.

15 And I'll put this all in an order early next week.

16 And then maybe 10 days thereafter, or 15 days
17 thereafter, a reply brief on the remand issue.

18 MR. STIO: May I ask a question?

19 THE COURT: Go ahead. Sure.

20 MR. STIO: Your Honor, on the opposition, because
21 we're dealing with the Memorial Day holiday, the number of
22 defendants, if we could have 30 days just to coordinate so
23 that we don't file 39 separate briefs.

24 And it also will give time for people who want to
25 petition the Court --

1 THE COURT: All right. That's fair. That sounds --
2 after --

3 MR. STIO: And then --

4 THE COURT: That will be 30 days after the deposition
5 is taken?

6 MR. STIO: Correct, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Yeah. And you'll order an expedited
8 transcript, I assume, of that.

9 MR. STIO: I will, Your Honor.

10 The only thing you have to build in there is if
11 someone gets the transcript and petitions the Court for
12 questions. We can deal with that.

13 THE COURT: If they do, then we'll have to revise the
14 schedule. If someone does.

15 You'll obviously make that transcript available to
16 all 39 defendants. 31, because you --

17 MR. STIO: Yes, Your Honor.

18 And then in terms of page length, the District of New
19 Jersey has rules, and I know Your Honor has personal
20 practices.

21 THE COURT: I do.

22 I'm glad you raised that, because it seems to me
23 that -- what are you suggesting for your -- are you possibly
24 going to file a joint brief, is that it, what you're hoping to
25 do ultimately? If not, there may be some outliers who want to

1 file their own briefs.

2 MR. STIO: Our hope would be to have a consolidated
3 brief.

4 THE COURT: Makes sense.

5 MR. STIO: There could be outliers that would file
6 just on a specific issue, if we could do that.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. STIO: Your Honor, maybe we would ask for the
9 40-page limit under the New Jersey court rules for that.

10 THE COURT: 40 pages for your brief, your
11 consolidated brief?

12 MR. STIO: Correct.

13 THE COURT: Yeah, that's fine.

14 And anyone else who files separately will have 25
15 pages.

16 MR. STIO: Thank you.

17 THE COURT: All right. That takes care --

18 Oh, the one other issue on remand that I almost
19 forgot.

20 The plaintiffs have made reference in Footnote 6 that
21 there are four defendants who were untimely in their motion to
22 remand.

23 What about those?

24 MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw for the plaintiffs.

25 Your Honor, I think we should have to put that into

1 the briefs. I mean, they bear the burden of proof on these
2 issues. I recognize that the timeliness is not
3 jurisdictional, in other words, that that's dispositive in and
4 of itself, but Your Honor can take that into consideration. I
5 think, you know --

6 THE COURT: Well, if it's not jurisdictional then and
7 you're happy to be in federal court, are you going to fight
8 that issue?

9 MR. SHAW: No. But I --

10 THE COURT: It's an inconsistent argument you're
11 making.

12 MR. SHAW: I was hoping it would color the rest of
13 their presentation.

14 THE COURT: Well, are you --

15 MR. SHAW: No, that's fine.

16 THE COURT: Are you withdrawing that objection?

17 MR. SHAW: I will withdraw that part of our motion to
18 remand.

19 THE COURT: All right. It's in Footnote 6.

20 MR. SHAW: Correct, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Nobody will have to address the issue of
22 timeliness of removal.

23 MR. SHAW: No, Your Honor.

24 And I note that some defendants even filed amended
25 motions to remove, which I don't know are proper. They didn't

1 get leave of court. But we're not going to raise that either.

2 THE COURT: Okay. That takes care of that. Very
3 good.

4 Now we now turn to the issue of a facial
5 constitutional challenge in the remaining cases, the 32 cases.

6 Anybody want to discuss briefing on that? That
7 obviously won't require any discovery.

8 MR. STIO: Your Honor, Angelo Stio again.

9 On the briefing schedule, we set forth a schedule
10 that we think is fair and efficient and allows time to get
11 input from the defendants for a consolidated brief, but also
12 importantly, it allows time for the Attorney General to get
13 the required notice and the ability to intervene and advise
14 the Court of the date that they --

15 THE COURT: Has the Attorney General been formally
16 notified of this matter?

17 MR. STIO: The Attorney General has not been notified
18 by any of the defendants who would be bringing this facial
19 challenge.

20 I believe there was some notice that may have been
21 given in the Delvepoint case, but I'm not sure it was done
22 pursuant to 5.1 or if the judge certified it to the Attorney
23 General as required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

24 So what I'm saying is I don't know if their deadline
25 is run or not.

1 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, that can be easily remedied.
2 The Attorney General can be notified about the case, about
3 these cases, and about whenever the motion is going to be
4 filed.

5 MR. STIO: Correct.

6 THE COURT: So I don't know that that's any reason
7 for delay.

8 They've got a big office in Trenton.

9 MR. STIO: But what we were considering, Your Honor,
10 is the defendants would have June 27th to file either a
11 consolidated brief or for those defendants who need to file
12 their own brief on the constitutional challenge. And again,
13 we hope that it would be a consolidated brief.

14 They would do that. At the same time, we would serve
15 the brief on the Attorney General so that they have notice --

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 MR. STIO: -- unless the Court wants to send a notice
18 prior to that and start their time running and just put a
19 concise statement of what our challenges are.

20 We would ask -- we would give the defendants until
21 April 12th to address --

22 THE COURT: April 12th?

23 MR. STIO: Excuse me, August 12th to address the
24 opposition. That would be pretty far out. But August 12th to
25 address the opposition.

1 The Attorney General during that time would advise
2 whether or not they're going to intervene. I had their date
3 as August 29th. That was assuming they got notice on June
4 27th.

5 And the Attorney General could submit any position
6 statement by September 19th, give them three weeks from the
7 time they intervene.

8 And reply briefs by the defendant group by October
9 26th.

10 THE COURT: Sounds like an awful long time.

11 MR. STIO: It --

12 THE COURT: I mean, the issue is obviously an
13 extremely important one, but it's a somewhat narrow issue,
14 isn't it?

15 MR. STIO: It's somewhat narrow issues, but there are
16 a number of defendants who are involved in this. Right? It's
17 not just the 39, it's everyone.

18 Two, we have the Attorney General, and we don't know
19 what the Attorney General is going to do.

20 Three, we want to be able to coordinate to try to
21 avoid submitting 71 briefs to Your Honor. And I think we can
22 do that --

23 THE COURT: There would be only 32.

24 MR. STIO: And then on top of that, though, we
25 also --

1 THE COURT: And you represent four of them, so
2 that's --

3 MR. STIO: Right, correct.

4 THE COURT: So that gets us down to 28.

5 MR. STIO: The other thing we have, though, Your
6 Honor, we have depositions and the motion for remand we're
7 briefing at the same time. I'm not up here saying it can't be
8 done, but I do think that allowing the time for us to
9 coordinate, allowing the time to see if the Attorney General
10 is going to come in, and also from the plaintiffs' point of
11 view, giving them time to respond to however many briefs are
12 submitted I think is fair and efficient, especially if we're
13 going on these parallel tracks of the summary -- the subject
14 matter jurisdiction motion and the constitutional motion.

15 I don't think it's unreasonable given the importance
16 of the issue, the dispositive impact it could have on the
17 case, and the fact that we are moving things forward with the
18 remand motions.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Shaw?

20 MR. SHAW: Your Honor, I think one important thing
21 happened in the interim since we were here last, and that was
22 the Appellate Division of New Jersey issued an opinion about
23 the constitutionality of Daniel's Law.

24 And I know when we were here last, a number of
25 defendants said they were following that closely.

1 So I just wanted to update the Court if it was not
2 aware of that.

3 But I do think that the issue is relatively
4 straightforward, and I think the timeline that counsel has
5 suggested is too long. We've suggested something much
6 shorter.

7 I don't think you need to build in a separate time
8 period for the Attorney General. They'll be notified, and
9 they'll either come in or they won't come in.

10 THE COURT: Right.

11 MR. SHAW: And I also think, you know, at the last
12 conference counsel said something like -- which I think is
13 important, which is essentially this is an MDL, maybe a`
14 reverse MDL. And I think there's got to be some coordination
15 on their side.

16 You know, we came into this court telling Your Honor
17 that we wanted to protect the safety of these officers. You
18 asked us to make productions of covered persons list. We did
19 that immediately. We responded to the motions to remand
20 immediately. And we think that asking them to coordinate to
21 file briefs that are in -- in a fashion that's helpful to the
22 Court is not a lot to ask. And we would ask for a schedule
23 that's faster than they've proposed.

24 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

25 MR. KIMREY: Thank you. Blaine Kimrey again, Your

1 Honor.

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MR. KIMREY: During our last hearing you talked about
4 this notion of having the non-remand set of briefs on the
5 facial constitutional challenge and then what you termed an
6 amicus set of briefs on the constitutional challenge by those
7 defendants who were --

8 THE COURT: I raised that. I don't know whether
9 that's practical or not. But go ahead.

10 MR. KIMREY: -- subject to motions to remand.

11 Both of my clients, Whitepages and Hiya, are subject
12 to jurisdictional challenges on the consolidated motion to
13 remand.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. KIMREY: We removed on diversity, arguing that
16 Atlas's Delaware registration should be disregarded.

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MR. KIMREY: And under the relevant factors, you
19 don't actually have to show it can, you just have to show that
20 Atlas is not the real party in interest. I just note that.

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MR. KIMREY: So I would very much -- Mr. Stio and I
23 are working together a lot, and we are going to opt in to that
24 consolidated brief if at all possible.

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. KIMREY: Even though we're subject to motions to
2 remand, we think the Court does have subject matter
3 jurisdiction, and we would appreciate the opportunity to be
4 heard and participate on the First Amendment facial challenge.

5 THE COURT: Right.

6 MR. KIMREY: And that --

7 THE COURT: How would you do that? Would you do it
8 with an amicus brief, or would you do it as part of their
9 brief? Or --

10 MR. KIMREY: I think what -- in the first instance
11 what we're going to try to do is join the consolidated brief
12 for purposes of efficiency.

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. KIMREY: But if we have unique issues, and I know
15 we do because of the nature of our business, I want to be able
16 to address those in perhaps supplemental briefing, if it
17 doesn't fit into the consolidated briefing.

18 THE COURT: On the facial challenge?

19 MR. KIMREY: On the facial challenge, yes, Your
20 Honor.

21 THE COURT: You might have a different argument
22 related to facial challenge than some of the other defendants.

23 Is that what you're saying?

24 MR. KIMREY: Right. So there's an exception under
25 Daniel's Law for a directory, and Whitepages and Hiya are

1 directories of sorts.

2 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

3 MR. KIMREY: So arguably the Court could avoid the
4 constitutional issue with respect to my clients --

5 THE COURT: Right.

6 MR. KIMREY: -- if the Court interpreted Daniel's Law
7 to exclude my clients from its purview.

8 That's a point that we would like to make, for
9 instance. That would be something that we would file as a
10 separate brief potentially if we can't fit it in the main
11 brief.

12 THE COURT: How is that going to be done without
13 discovery? Because how do I know whether you fit within that
14 definition without knowing a little bit about what your
15 company is all about?

16 MR. KIMREY: These are facts that can be judicially
17 noticed and aren't subject to reasonable dispute.

18 THE COURT: Really?

19 MR. KIMREY: Yes. Now, I realize Your Honor may view
20 it differently or the opposition may view it differently, but
21 this is just one example, this directory issue.

22 I obviously liked your notion of the potential for
23 briefing beyond the one consolidated brief on the
24 constitutional issues. These are -- this is a very important,
25 potentially case dispositive issue.

1 THE COURT: Absolutely.

2 MR. KIMREY: So I'm just wondering if like with the
3 consolidated motion to remand where you said the consolidated
4 brief would be 40 pages and if anybody else wants to file
5 anything, those would be limited to 25, we can have a similar
6 approach to the motion to dismiss based on the facial
7 challenges, with the understanding that if I can avoid filing
8 a separate brief or if any of us can avoid filing a separate
9 brief, we absolutely will, and we'll opt into the consolidated
10 brief.

11 But I definitely don't want it to appear from the
12 transcript as if we are muzzled as --

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. KIMREY: -- defendants subject to motions to
15 remand, because we are currently parties before this Court.

16 THE COURT: You are.

17 MR. KIMREY: And we want to be heard on the
18 constitutional issues, which I think will matter even if we do
19 get remanded, which I don't think we will, because if this
20 Court ultimately finds that Daniel's Law is unconstitutional,
21 that's going to mean something in state court.

22 Additionally, I want to note with respect to the ACLU
23 challenge, that during the last hearing, they argued that that
24 was immaterial because it was an as-applied challenge.

25 Now that the New Jersey Supreme Court has found that

1 the as-applied challenge fails, they're saying that the ACLU
2 case should be a lodestar for you.

3 I want --

4 THE COURT: Did the New Jersey Supreme Court decide
5 the case?

6 MR. KIMREY: It was the New Jersey Court of Appeals.

7 Did I misspeak, Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: The Appellate Division?

9 MR. KIMREY: Yeah. It was the New Jersey Court of
10 Appeals. And it's probably going to be -- there's going to be
11 a petition for cert to the New Jersey Supreme Court in the
12 case.

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. KIMREY: And just a heads up, there may be
15 motions for amicus participation in the traditional sense --

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 MR. KIMREY: -- here.

18 It is possible -- I don't have authority for this,
19 but it is possible that the ACLU may move for amicus
20 participation.

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MR. KIMREY: And there may be other press and First
23 Amendment and civil rights related organizations that may be
24 filing motions for leave.

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MR. KIMREY: Just a heads up.

2 But I really would like it to be clear on the record,
3 Your Honor, that you're not foreclosing --

4 THE COURT: No.

5 MR. KIMREY: -- the defendants subject to motions for
6 remand --

7 THE COURT: Right, right.

8 MR. KIMREY: -- for remand from participating in the
9 First Amendment facial challenge and due process facial
10 challenge process.

11 THE COURT: I would have no objection.

12 Does anybody have any objection to their
13 participation?

14 MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw for the plaintiff.

15 No objection, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

17 MS. PURCARO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Hi. Kelly
18 Purcaro, P-U-R-C-A-R-O.

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 MS. PURCARO: And I represent defendants in four
21 different cases. The docket numbers are 04389, 05775, 05658
22 and 05656.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MS. PURCARO: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 Similar to some of what's been said, I represent

1 defendants in the cases that are not subject to remand but
2 also don't want to burden the Court with additional briefing
3 and would like to participate in an expeditious process to
4 address some of these facial issues.

5 Having said that, I have no horse in the race on the
6 remand motions. But in terms of the briefing, we generally
7 agree with the signatory defendants that submitted a proposed
8 briefing schedule.

9 However, I have a tweak that I would like to
10 recommend on behalf of my clients and a couple other
11 defendants that are similarly situated.

12 And that is to say, after the initial briefing, if we
13 could then have a period of time where if and only if
14 necessary other defendants would like to submit supplemental
15 briefing or their own briefing, that there be an opportunity
16 to do so after reviewing that joint brief.

17 So the way that the schedule is set forth now, the
18 one that was proposed by defendants, they have a June 27th
19 date for the initial consolidated briefing.

20 THE COURT: Right.

21 MS. PURCARO: If there are defendants who don't agree
22 with that brief, they need to first see it --

23 THE COURT: Absolutely.

24 MS. PURCARO: -- to know whether or not they agree
25 with it. And if they need to supplement, they need to first

1 see it.

2 So what I would propose is that two weeks later, July
3 12th about, if any other defendant has something briefly they
4 want to add or some short supplemental briefing, even limited
5 to 10 pages, that we'd be allowed to do so. And that would
6 not interrupt any of the scheduling that was proposed by the
7 other defendants.

8 There would still be -- the next response date of
9 plaintiffs would be a month later, August 12th, on that
10 briefing.

11 I don't have a position on the Attorney General. I
12 don't presume to know their schedule or their briefing
13 capacity. I defer to my other co-defendants here on those
14 issues.

15 And while I have Your Honor, I just want to clarify
16 that we do intend generally to join on the constitutional
17 challenges facially.

18 THE COURT: Right.

19 MS. PURCARO: I would presume that that means that a
20 stay would be in place for any motions to dismiss on Rule 8,
21 you know, the facial pleadings, any other basis or responsive
22 pleadings. And I just want to clarify that we're not waiving
23 that ability and that is stayed.

24 I do also want to mention that counsel referenced on
25 the record, and I believe a letter was filed while I was

1 driving here, that they produced the lists of the covered
2 persons --

3 THE COURT: Right.

4 MS. PURCARO: -- to all defendants.

5 I did not receive any of those lists for any of my
6 four cases, and I am one of the attorneys that's been
7 requesting for over four months the lists and have yet to
8 receive one.

9 THE COURT: Well --

10 MS. PURCARO: So I do want to say that on the record.
11 I will speak with counsel after and continue my efforts.

12 Their deadline has not run yet. They are not
13 deficient on Your Honor's order.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MS. PURCARO: They still have time. But we did not
16 all receive it.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 MS. PURCARO: So I just wanted to make that clear.

19 And as a final note, so that everybody can get along
20 with this --

21 THE COURT: We all want to get along.

22 MS. PURCARO: -- I just wanted to ask if we could
23 address for a moment, as a practical matter, any ongoing
24 requests.

25 Speaking of the lists of the covered person

1 requests --

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MS. PURCARO: -- I would ask that if there are any
4 further requests by the represented or the assigned people,
5 that they be made through counsel.

6 Because some of the issues we are not addressing yet
7 are the as-applied challenges, the individual challenges. And
8 speaking on behalf of my defendants, many have not received --
9 and this is why we got the list, have not received the
10 requests. And they want to comply.

11 And some old emails are being used, some privacy
12 websites that we have set up for compliance are being
13 sidestepped, and emails are being sent to various defunct
14 emails.

15 So for our purposes, we do want to make sure everyone
16 who wants to be protected is protected. Anyone whose
17 information that they want it to be redacted, whether a
18 covered person or not, we don't want to disclose anyone's
19 information that doesn't want it disclosed.

20 So to avoid any further confusion with the receipt of
21 these requests, I would ask that counsel direct those requests
22 directly to defense counsel so that we don't have these issues
23 of where the email is going, did we get them, all of that.

24 And that's all I have to address at this moment.

25 And I thank you, Your Honor, for your time.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 In terms of the motions, we haven't gotten to that
3 subject yet, but I do agree that if someone is going to file a
4 motion facially challenging the constitutionality of Daniel's
5 Law, then we'll have to have a provision that that's without
6 prejudice to filing subsequent motions if the case continues:
7 Venue, personal jurisdiction, a challenge to the
8 constitutionality as applied, whatever else you may want to
9 raise.

10 So that leads to the issue of what about the
11 defendants who aren't going to file a motion facially
12 challenging the statute? We have 32. And some may not.

13 So the question then becomes, should they have to
14 file an answer within a certain period of time?

15 MS. PURCARO: Right.

16 THE COURT: And those who are going to file a
17 challenge, a facial challenge, they may have other motions in
18 the pipeline. And we're going to have to work out a provision
19 so that if they file a motion challenging the statute on its
20 face, that they're not waiving all the other defenses which
21 they may have. And they would then, at some later point, have
22 to file an answer or file other motions. So we're going to
23 have to work that out, because obviously there shouldn't be
24 any thought that there's a waiver as a result of that.

25 MS. PURCARO: Right. And just as a practical point,

1 I have not heard of -- and I don't know that there is -- a
2 defendant that would not at minimum join in the facial
3 challenges. I don't know that there is any in the group or
4 that we've heard of, so --

5 THE COURT: Well, I don't -- I don't know that
6 there's any.

7 MS. PURCARO: -- I don't know that we need to worry
8 about --

9 THE COURT: I thought there was some reference to
10 that, Mr. Shaw, in your letter.

11 MS. PURCARO: I don't know that that's true. I can
12 tell you all of my defendants will join one way or another,
13 whether joining the brief or supplementing in those
14 challenges. And I have not heard of any defendant that does
15 not have a similar desire to join.

16 MR. KIMREY: That was news to us.

17 THE COURT: Give us your name again.

18 MR. KIMREY: Blaine Kimrey.

19 So the letter that opposing counsel sent today
20 indicated that there were defendants who may not join in the
21 facial challenge.

22 I don't know who they are. They haven't identified
23 themselves to us.

24 Are you out there? Anybody?

25 There's no hand being raised.

1 THE COURT: A couple of people are standing.

2 Come up.

3 Good afternoon.

4 MR. McGEE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ryan McGee
5 for the plaintiffs.

6 At the last hearing, if we want to pull --

7 THE COURT: For the plaintiffs?

8 MR. McGEE: Yes, sir. With the plaintiffs.

9 We can pull up the transcript. There were numerous
10 attorneys who came up here and said, we are not considering
11 facial. We may consider as applied.

12 That was the entire basis of our letter.

13 THE COURT: I see.

14 MR. McGEE: We aren't going out there and trying to
15 group everyone into, you know, whether you're doing it or not.
16 They came before Your Honor and represented that. And that's
17 why we thought that next track was appropriate that you were
18 going down.

19 So, no, we don't have a list of every single
20 defendant checked yes or no and whether it's going to be
21 facial or as applied or just no in general. We've tried to do
22 that. We've not received responses from all of the
23 defendants.

24 THE COURT: Well, just so we can anticipate, if there
25 are defendants who are not going to do it, they should

1 probably be required to file an answer, of course with various
2 defenses, and with the right, it seems to me, to make a
3 separate motion at a later time.

4 So they wouldn't have to wait until trial to raise
5 the motion, that they --

6 MR. McGEE: Right. And, Judge --

7 THE COURT: Assuming that they would have to -- of
8 course, if they have three or four other affirmative defenses,
9 that they would have to raise them all at the one time if it's
10 appropriate under -- they couldn't just continue to do it
11 piecemeal.

12 MR. McGEE: Right.

13 THE COURT: I have one exception for the piecemeal
14 motion.

15 MR. McGEE: And I think at the last hearing, Your
16 Honor, you recommended that.

17 And I think that we were generally on board with
18 that, is that if they didn't file a facial challenge, they
19 would file an answer with all of the defenses that they would
20 be asserting, and it would preserve all of those defenses,
21 jurisdictional, possibly even as applied or anything else.

22 THE COURT: Right.

23 MR. McGEE: So that Your Honor would have an idea of
24 what all of the other defendants are -- have in the pipeline
25 so that you would be able to manage your docket.

1 So I don't think we had a problem with that. My
2 colleagues may speak differently. But I did think there was
3 some elegance to that, of getting an idea of who would be
4 challenging what, whether we're looking at, you know, personal
5 jurisdiction for 5 defendants or 15 defendants or whatever the
6 numbers are.

7 So I do recall you mentioning that, and I do think we
8 think there was elegance to that. And I don't think that we'd
9 be arguing that there would be waiver because Your Honor is
10 trying to manage the docket on these cases.

11 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

12 MR. MAO: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Mark Mao,
13 Boies Schiller Flexner, for plaintiffs.

14 Your Honor, so, I concur with my colleague Mr. McGee.
15 And I think the main point that I want to make is if you look
16 at the schedule, Your Honor, it is a little long. I don't
17 think it's going to take two months for defendants to decide
18 who is going to join in, you know, the main omnibus
19 constitutional-on-its-face challenge versus some other
20 statements.

21 And I also believe that the Attorney General is going
22 to find it useful for there to be some type of consolidated
23 statement as to what exactly they're challenging. That way
24 the Attorney General can actually have time to consider
25 whether or not they're going to deliberate, participate and

1 possibly respond.

2 If you look at the schedule, you know, this
3 supplemental that's being proposed by counsel would be -- take
4 place on July 12th, which is well over two months from today.
5 They've been talking -- humming and, you know, preluding the
6 fact that they may do a constitutional challenge, you know,
7 well -- at least two months ago. So I think they're already
8 prepared, and they should already know their positions.

9 Just to be very clear, we did ask -- last week or the
10 week before we did ask counsel to provide us a list of all of
11 the defendants' counsel who are participating in these
12 proceedings.

13 I assume that if we ask them for their own
14 discussions amongst each other, they're going to claim that
15 there's a common interest privilege. With the common interest
16 privilege, I presume that there's going to be a list of
17 counsel who are common to each other in terms of -- you know,
18 who are mounting the defense.

19 THE COURT: Well, you can go through the dockets,
20 can't you? There are 72 dockets and you see who the attorneys
21 are.

22 MR. MAO: Yeah. Well, I think perhaps one of the --
23 the last speaker, I'm sorry, I forgot the lady's name, but she
24 mentioned that she did not receive a copy, because, you know,
25 her clients want to protect, you know, the covered persons and

1 whatnot.

2 But we did --

3 THE COURT: Excuse me, are you on the docket?

4 MS. PURCARO: I'm on four dockets.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 MR. MAO: Well, I mean, Your Honor, I hope you can
7 appreciate that just providing covered persons and their
8 personal information, that's a sensitive topic. Right?

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. MAO: So we're providing them with a password.
11 You know, it's well protected behind the wall. So we're
12 trying to make sure, you know, the covered persons are not
13 only giving notice, but they're also being, you know,
14 protected, just as, you know, she indicated -- opposing
15 counsel indicated they want to protect that.

16 And the reason why that is also important, Your
17 Honor, is because, you know, it sounds like everybody here is
18 in agreement that, you know, we want to protect the covered
19 persons in the interim. And what we're trying to do is just
20 make sure that that's done in an organized, efficient, right,
21 and thoughtful way.

22 And part of that is going to require people telling
23 us, you know, they're not receiving a copy of the packet. If
24 they want that packet, they should let us know. I mean, we've
25 been affirmatively asking that ever since Your Honor ordered

1 that.

2 So, you know, that -- I also heard that opposing
3 counsel get up here and said that, you know, can we take care
4 of everybody that's potentially asking for opt-out.

5 Your Honor, Daniel's Law has been passed since 2021.
6 There should be compliance tools that are in place to make
7 sure that things are done with or without the assistance of an
8 attorney. And we don't necessarily represent all of the
9 requests that may be coming in from covered persons. If
10 covered persons send their own emails, there's no way for us
11 to get ahead of that or to stop that. And I'm not sure how to
12 comply with that request.

13 But, Your Honor, if opposing counsel, right, I think
14 all of them last hearing indicated that they too are
15 interested in protecting the safety of the officers. We're
16 happy to oblige. They have their email or just tell us what
17 that list is. We've been asking.

18 MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, if I --

19 THE COURT: Let's hear from -- go ahead.

20 MR. PARIKH: Raj Parikh on behalf of plaintiffs.

21 I'll talk to Ms. Purcaro after the hearing today.

22 THE COURT: Very good.

23 MR. PARIKH: We have sent to -- every defendant
24 should have gotten multiple emails from me yesterday,
25 including a ShareFile link.

1 There have been some that have emailed this morning,
2 some that I've talked to in Court. There are little glitches,
3 there might be a typo, whatever it may be, but we will sort
4 all of that out and ensure that all of the defendants here
5 have the covered persons list as well as the assignment
6 documents by the end of this week.

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 MR. KIMREY: Your Honor, I did not -- Blaine Kimrey.

9 I didn't receive the email last night. I know about
10 it because others told me about it.

11 So apparently what happened with us is only one of
12 our lawyers was copied on that transmission, even though I am
13 pro hac vice admitted and I'm counsel of record. I'm lead
14 counsel for Whitepages and Hiya.

15 THE COURT: Right.

16 MR. KIMREY: So I ask that all counsel of record be
17 copied on all correspondence from plaintiffs' counsel.

18 THE COURT: That shouldn't be a problem in this
19 technological age, should it?

20 MR. PARIKH: It should not, Your Honor. And just so
21 we're very clear, we asked counsel, all of them, last week for
22 a defense counsel list to make sure we had all the right
23 folks.

24 What we did was we pulled names right off the docket,
25 so with some lawyers their local counsel are getting it,

1 pursuant to the New Jersey court rules.

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MR. PARIKH: I'm sure that may be what happened here.

4 But I'm confident that Mr. Kimrey can stand up and
5 tell the Court that someone on his team received those
6 documents yesterday.

7 And so --

8 THE COURT: Well, I understand. Let's just try to
9 work together.

10 MR. PARIKH: Sure.

11 And to that end, Your Honor, I think if defendants
12 have a consolidated list of, you know, the seven lawyers
13 involved in the case, whether there's only two on the docket
14 and five more that are working in the office, we'd be happy to
15 take that list from them and coordinate and make sure that all
16 communications go to everyone. Obviously for us to send
17 another email, it's not an issue.

18 THE COURT: So I think it would make sense for
19 defense counsel just out of an abundance of caution to send to
20 plaintiffs' counsel the list of lawyers who should be getting
21 the emails, not just rely on the docket, so that there's no
22 confusion. Just take that step and do that.

23 MR. PARIKH: Thank you, Judge.

24 MR. KIMREY: Okay. Yes, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Now, the one suggestion that was made

1 about having a consolidated brief and then a few extra days to
2 file a supplemental brief, the problem with that is everybody
3 may decide that they're in the second category and you're
4 going to be filing on the second date.

5 So that's -- I'm not sure that that would necessarily
6 work. So you may just -- everybody will have to file. You
7 know, if you're unhappy, maybe what those who are running the
8 consolidated brief can do is to try to get a draft out to
9 other counsel before the deadline and take a look at it and
10 file something.

11 I mean, I just -- I'm afraid that we'd be pushing --
12 we may get one brief on the first date and 15 briefs on the
13 subsequent date.

14 MS. PURCARO: Thank you, Your Honor. Kelly Purcaro
15 again for the record.

16 THE COURT: Yeah.

17 MS. PURCARO: And that was my concern with the
18 proposed order the way it's framed, because it calls for the
19 consolidated brief and all other briefs all on that one day.
20 And so you do run the risk of anyone whose opinion is not
21 considered by the person filing, everybody filing all these
22 briefs. And that's going to be a disaster for everybody
23 reading them and for the Court.

24 And I think that a supplemental approach to be used
25 only if necessary would be -- would make the most sense,

1 because we don't always have time to circulate.

2 THE COURT: I understand.

3 MS. PURCARO: There's not -- we don't all work for
4 the same firm. We all have separate clients.

5 THE COURT: I understand.

6 MS. PURCARO: And we don't all have authority to
7 join. So we need -- for myself. I'll speak for myself.

8 THE COURT: Right.

9 MS. PURCARO: These are fantastically brilliant
10 attorneys on both sides. They're all going to make wonderful
11 arguments. I happen to have some wonderful arguments as well.
12 They may not agree with my wonderful arguments, as they didn't
13 with the instant letter and I couldn't join.

14 I don't want to lose the ability to advocate for my
15 clients in four different cases because of the majority rule
16 and I basically can't efficiently represent my client.

17 THE COURT: Well --

18 MS. PURCARO: So as a compromise, even if it's a
19 seven-page supplement due a week or two later, give me a
20 chance to review what it is the majority of the defendants
21 file, and then maybe I join by letter and there is no
22 supplement. And that may very well be the case, but I can't
23 waive the right without having the ability to control what's
24 going to be filed or visibility.

25 THE COURT: What I can do is just take it on faith

1 that there will be a consolidated brief, from what everybody
2 has been representing. And then we'll give the outliers a few
3 extra days to file a supplemental brief limited to maybe 10
4 pages or something of that kind.

5 MS. PURCARO: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Stio.

7 MR. STIO: Just very quickly, Your Honor. The reason
8 why our submission had the June 27th date is to allow time for
9 us to circulate the consolidated brief in draft form and give
10 enough time to get input from all the other defendants who are
11 going to join in that brief. And, you know, it's not a
12 situation, as Ms. Purcaro said, where we all work in the same
13 firm.

14 THE COURT: No. I understand.

15 MR. STIO: And that's why we needed to get -- you
16 know, we thought it was a reasonable amount of time, June
17 27th, for us to draft the brief, circulate it, and then give
18 the attorneys time to not only confer with their clients but
19 to get back with comments so that we can try to reach
20 agreement on the content of that.

21 I have no issue with what Ms. Purcaro is proposing of
22 a supplement a few days later.

23 But the reason why we built that in for the 27th is
24 to give us time to circulate it and get input from all the
25 defendants.

1 THE COURT: Go ahead.

2 MR. SPAK: Your Honor, I'm Jason Spak.

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 MR. SPAK: Case number 4176 representing Innovis.

5 I stood up because a few minutes back there was
6 discussion, what if a defendant is not gung-ho about raising a
7 constitutional challenge.

8 THE COURT: Right.

9 MR. SPAK: I'm in that position. It had never
10 occurred to my client to raise a constitutional challenge
11 before Your Honor mentioned it at the prior status hearing.
12 And we believe that there might be a clear path to either
13 dismissal or some kind of resolution with opposing counsel if
14 we were able to file our own responsive pleading.

15 And so the question that I guess my client has is if
16 we join, don't join, or stand on the sidelines hoping for the
17 benefit of whatever constitutional challenge gets raised, are
18 we stayed from filing a responsive pleading until that's
19 resolved, or are we able to file a responsive pleading --

20 THE COURT: I would anticipate you'd file a
21 responsive -- if you're not going to join in the motion
22 challenging the statute facially, then you'd file an answer --

23 MR. SPAK: Uh-huh.

24 THE COURT: -- with your defenses.

25 MR. SPAK: And so --

1 THE COURT: Then everything would be stayed. I mean,
2 we're not going to go forward on -- we have two tracks going.
3 We're not going to have more than two.

4 So until the facial challenge is decided, then there
5 wouldn't be anything further to be done with respect to any of
6 the defendants, except for the remand defendants where we're
7 going to deal with that. But we would just sit back and see
8 what happens.

9 MR. SPAK: So if I filed a motion to dismiss on
10 grounds that don't involve the US Constitution --

11 THE COURT: You wouldn't do that at this point. You
12 would file an answer with your affirmative defenses.

13 MR. SPAK: Listing what I propose to raise at a later
14 date.

15 THE COURT: Yeah, yeah.

16 MR. SPAK: Okay.

17 THE COURT: In your answer would be an affirmative
18 defense. Then we could allow you to -- does that make sense?

19 Or do you want to file a motion? Because there may
20 be reasons you don't want to file an answer, you would prefer
21 to file whatever motions you want to file, if you have them.
22 If you're not going to file motions, file a responsive brief.

23 But you wouldn't -- we wouldn't go any further than
24 that.

25 MR. SPAK: Right. It sounds like regardless of what

1 I filed, it would be on ice --

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MR. SPAK: -- while the constitutional briefing
4 were --

5 THE COURT: And then the question is whether you
6 should file your motions, if you have other motions, venue,
7 challenge to the constitutionality as applied, the statute
8 doesn't apply to you, whatever.

9 MR. SPAK: Right. Yeah. I mean, honestly, if I
10 filed something like that and it's going to be stayed pending
11 the resolution of the constitutional briefing --

12 THE COURT: Yes, yes.

13 MR. SPAK: -- there's no reason -- like there's every
14 reason to join in the constitutional challenge, because you
15 might -- you know, might get the benefit of it and --

16 THE COURT: It's possible.

17 MR. SPAK: Yeah. And then if and only if it doesn't
18 succeed, then you end up doing what you would have done six
19 months prior or however many months it is.

20 THE COURT: Yeah. I guess if the defendants win on
21 that, and you haven't challenged it, maybe you're --

22 MR. SPAK: So sad, exactly.

23 THE COURT: Who knows what will happen.

24 MR. SPAK: Wouldn't that be a shame?

25 All right. Thank you, Your Honor. Appreciate the

1 clarity.

2 THE COURT: All right. Anything further? Yes?

3 MR. COLLINS: Your Honor, Robert Collins, Latham &
4 Watkins. Our firm has four of the cases that are subject to
5 motions to remand.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 MR. COLLINS: And the prior speaker may have
8 addressed half of what I wanted to cover --

9 THE COURT: Go ahead.

10 MR. COLLINS: -- so I'll be very brief.

11 But our position, I -- I think at this point I don't
12 have direction from all of our clients as to whether we would
13 join a facial challenge or not. I'm not saying we won't.

14 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

15 MR. COLLINS: But in that circumstance there, we
16 would have defenses at least to personal jurisdiction and
17 otherwise.

18 THE COURT: Right.

19 MR. COLLINS: And so our position would be that we
20 don't think it would be proper to have to file an actual
21 answer to the complaint.

22 THE COURT: I understand.

23 MR. COLLINS: And instead, either a motion or have it
24 be stayed.

25 THE COURT: I think that's right. I think -- unless

1 someone has no other defenses, they just want to file an
2 answer.

3 So we could say either file an answer or other
4 motions to dismiss. You know, some people may want to file an
5 answer, and they should be permitted to do that.

6 Otherwise, you file your motion I guess with
7 supporting legal authority, with a supporting brief, not just
8 a motion. And then we'll stay everything, because we just
9 can't go down a thousand tracks at one time.

10 But you should be able to set forth what your
11 arguments are at this point.

12 MR. COLLINS: Understood, Your Honor. And of course
13 if my clients do join the facial challenge --

14 THE COURT: That would be.

15 MR. COLLINS: -- then that would be mitigated.

16 THE COURT: For the moment.

17 MR. COLLINS: Correct.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

21 MR. STICHEL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Mark
22 Stichel. I'm in the case 24-4434, eMerges.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MR. STICHEL: And Ms. Purcaro in her time up here, it
25 discussed getting notification with respect to covered persons

1 on a forward going basis.

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MR. STICHEL: I believe she mentioned that.

4 And the suggestion was that that be sent to counsel.

5 I don't want to have my email jammed up with requests
6 with respect to covered persons. So I'm wondering if we could
7 agree on a mechanism where there would be a designated email
8 address at our respective clients that that could be received.

9 I think one of the concerns is that requests are
10 going to defunct emails, emails that aren't responsive. So we
11 could at least agree that we could supply plaintiffs and a
12 designated email being used for that singular purpose --

13 THE COURT: Sure.

14 MR. STICHEL: -- so those things wouldn't get lost.

15 THE COURT: Each defendant can do it differently. If
16 the lawyer wants to receive it, fine. If you have a
17 designated individual or entity that is to receive it, that's
18 fine. But just let the plaintiffs' counsel know. So that's
19 going to be the obligation of the defendants to do that.

20 And I guess the default position is to send it to the
21 lawyer because that's the only address you have really.

22 Yeah?

23 MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, Raj Parikh on behalf of the
24 plaintiffs.

25 We're happy to take whatever information any

1 defendant wants to give us.

2 THE COURT: Right.

3 MR. PARIKH: But, again, a lot of these -- I don't
4 know if defunct or not, but these email addresses are
5 publically available on these data brokers' websites, which is
6 why covered persons choose to send them there.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. PARIKH: So, you know, if they want to update
9 their websites and provide us that information, we're happy to
10 pass it along. But with respect to these cases, I think
11 what's being raised both by Mr. Stichel as well as Ms. Purcaro
12 is there are covered people who continue to deliver notices
13 to -- takedown requests to some of the defendants here and I'm
14 sure other data brokers as well who are not litigants in this
15 court or in any other court. Each of these parties have the
16 continuing obligation to remove those additional people's
17 information within ten business days.

18 MR. STICHEL: Your Honor, if I may address.

19 What happened after all of these emails were -- hit
20 my client's email on December 25th, Christmas day --

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MR. STICHEL: -- they had blocked Atlas's emails. So
23 right now everything Atlas sent is being blocked somewhere
24 else.

25 So we want to receive them, but we want to receive

1 them in an orderly fashion.

2 And so we'll get an address to give to the
3 plaintiffs.

4 MR. PARIKH: Happy to take any of it.

5 As Your Honor said last time, it's the defendants'
6 choice. If they want to take a request and throw it in the
7 garbage, that's up to them.

8 And if you're blocking an email address, if a data
9 broker decided to block a Gmail account or a Yahoo mail
10 account or a PBA account or an Atlas mail account, that's
11 their choice. But at the end of the day, those message are
12 being delivered on behalf of covered persons.

13 THE COURT: Try to work it out. Speak to them, work
14 it out, what's best for your client, in terms of getting the
15 information.

16 MR. STICHEL: I will do so, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 MR. MAO: Your Honor, I'm sorry. Mark Mao for
19 plaintiffs.

20 THE COURT: Yeah?

21 MR. MAO: I just want to clear up for the record,
22 when people are referring to an email being blocked, what
23 they're referring to is the domain blocking. So it would be
24 Atlasmail.com or gmail.com, hotmail.com, yahoo.com being
25 blocked.

1 So, for the record, when defendants are talking about
2 them blocking emails, they're blocking an entire domain
3 regardless of who's originating that email within the use of
4 that email service.

5 I just want to make it clear that that's on the
6 record.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Yes, sir?

9 MR. CHRISTIE: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 Real briefly, Scott Christie, representing Black
11 Knight Technologies and Black Knight, Inc. 24-4233.

12 I just want to weigh in real quickly on the issue
13 that we were just discussing.

14 We likewise agree that the most effective approach
15 would be for any future suppression requests for plaintiff to
16 notify counsel, not inundate counsel with requests but notify
17 counsel and have counsel provide an email address for the
18 client to which these account -- these new suppression
19 requests would be sent.

20 I will work with plaintiffs' counsel, assuming that
21 Your Honor approves of that.

22 THE COURT: Sure.

23 MR. CHRISTIE: But I just wanted to express concern
24 about being inundated, like the prior speaker did, with the
25 suppression requests ourselves.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 MR. CHRISTIE: Coupled with that, Judge, unlike some
3 of the other speakers, we did get the list of covered persons
4 last night. And I have a quick issue or two about that list.

5 The list includes -- it's a spreadsheet. It has line
6 items listing a covered person and either a phone number or an
7 address.

8 It's not clear to us whether each line item in the
9 spreadsheet corresponds to a suppression email request.

10 And one of my clients is concerned because it appears
11 that the number of line items in this spreadsheet vastly
12 exceeds the number of suppression emails that they received,
13 meaning potentially that through this process, through
14 providing the spreadsheet of covered persons, Atlas may be
15 attempting to seek suppression of or potentially additional
16 violations at this late date, which were not initially sent
17 back in late 2023 and early 2024.

18 So what I'm asking, Judge, is not only have
19 plaintiffs provide this spreadsheet, which is helpful, but
20 provide copies of the actual suppression emails that were
21 sent. That way we can know the date and time it was sent and
22 the covered person that allegedly sent it.

23 Finally, Judge, we ask that to the extent that there
24 are additional suppression requests, that the plaintiffs are
25 obliged to provide the same discovery that they have been

1 ordered to provide with regard to the existing suppression
2 request, meaning any new terms of service, meaning any
3 assignment issues, meaning any, you know, additional lists,
4 quote/unquote, of covered persons.

5 So we just ask that order be continuing and going
6 forward with regard to the Court's prior order on that issue.
7 Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Shaw.

9 MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw.

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MR. SHAW: Your Honor, we -- and I think like the
12 defendants want to make sure that the safety of these officers
13 is protected.

14 We encourage all of these defendants to tell us which
15 address they want to receive notices from people in the
16 future.

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MR. SHAW: As to the lists, if they have a question
19 about it, feel free to -- we can decipher that for them.

20 THE COURT: Right.

21 MR. SHAW: But I think some of these things are
22 getting into merits that have nothing to do with, you know,
23 where we are in this case at the time. We're happy to make
24 sure that they get the lists, and we can -- we're happy to
25 explain it to them, and we're happy to give -- make sure that

1 they have -- they tell us which addresses should be used for
2 people in the future.

3 THE COURT: Well, I think what we need to do is have
4 communication between the defendants and the plaintiff. If
5 there are any issues, try to work it out. I mean, if one
6 defendant -- call Mr. Shaw, call the other attorneys and see
7 if you can't deal with your individual problems.

8 I mean, I can't sit here and deal with 72 different
9 defendants and what their technological systems are and
10 whether things are getting blocked or not getting blocked.

11 But I think we all understand what the aim is here.
12 And the simple thing is -- to do is to maybe even pick up the
13 telephone. You know, we still have telephones. And talk to
14 the other side about what's going on, back and forth, so you
15 don't have emails floating back and forth. Nothing like a
16 telephone conversation to work out a lot of problems.

17 MR. SHAW: I think that's an excellent idea, Your
18 Honor.

19 Adam Shaw again.

20 THE COURT: You all know where you can find the
21 plaintiffs' attorneys and give them a call. Work it out.

22 MR. SHAW: We agree, Your Honor. And we open that
23 invitation to everyone.

24 I want to get back to the schedule. I was going to
25 get back to the schedule.

1 THE COURT: That's right. We have to set the
2 schedule here.

3 Go ahead.

4 MR. SHAW: We thought that -- again, we think their
5 schedule is too long. We think there should be a time frame
6 in the next few days basically where they identify the
7 constitutional issue that's going to be posed. That way the
8 Attorney General could be notified, and then they coordinate
9 their efforts to file their consolidated brief.

10 And I don't believe that there should be extra time
11 for particular defendants to file a supplemental brief. We
12 think that, you know, they could have any other briefs filed
13 at the same time, and then we move the schedule forward.

14 THE COURT: Well, all right.

15 MR. SHAW: Pardon me, Your Honor.

16 This is not related to the schedule, but there was
17 one other thing I want to make sure.

18 You said there are two tracks moving. And that's
19 difficult enough, but I did want to call out, there are some
20 defendants we're talking to about settlement and wanted to be
21 able to continue to do that as well. And I know --

22 THE COURT: I've never heard of a judge that didn't
23 like settlement. So you don't have to have my permission to
24 talk about settlement.

25 MR. SHAW: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: I know we have the LexisNexis case to
2 talk about, but we need to get the schedule.

3 MR. LEE: I'm here for LexisNexis.

4 THE COURT: Okay. That's the next thing.

5 All right. Believing in Rule 1 of the Federal Rules
6 of Civil Procedure, which talks about interpreting the rules
7 for just, speedy and expeditious, I think it is, resolution of
8 cases, I'm going to require a brief to be filed June 10th
9 and -- a consolidated brief.

10 And how many pages do you think you're going to need
11 for that? 40?

12 MR. STIO: Your Honor, we'd like to have 60 pages.

13 THE COURT: How many?

14 MR. STIO: 60.

15 THE COURT: We'll make it 50.

16 MR. STIO: Thank you.

17 THE COURT: It's called a brief for a reason.

18 MR. STIO: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: 50 pages.

20 Any supplemental briefs, June 14th. June 10th is a
21 Monday, June 14th is a Friday. That brief will be limited to
22 10 pages.

23 Any opposition brief, 15th of July.

24 Reply brief, July 30th.

25 And it seems to me that the Attorney General of New

1 Jersey should be notified. And the defendants are the ones
2 that are challenging the constitutionality, so it will be up
3 to the defendants to formally notify the Attorney General of
4 New Jersey of the issue. And you can also give them, the
5 Attorney General, the schedule that's been set.

6 And if the Attorney General wants to file an
7 opposition brief, he'll have until July 15th to do so.

8 All right. I think that takes care of the -- yes?

9 MR. KIMREY: Your Honor, just a couple points of
10 clarification. Blaine Kimrey.

11 THE COURT: Sure.

12 MR. KIMREY: How long is the opposition or what is
13 the page limit for the opposition that's due on July 15th?

14 THE COURT: What do you want, Mr. Shaw?

15 MR. SHAW: 50 pages seems equal.

16 THE COURT: I'll give you 50, and we'll make the
17 reply brief 25.

18 MR. KIMREY: And then, Your Honor --

19 THE COURT: And then also -- go ahead.

20 MR. KIMREY: I'm sorry, I think you were going to
21 address what I was going to ask.

22 THE COURT: And then also as of June 14th, those who
23 are not joining in the motion will file any other motion to
24 dismiss with supporting brief.

25 So if you're not going to challenge facially and

1 you're challenging venue or whatever else, file your motion.
2 And all your motions will have to be together. You can't just
3 file piecemeal. And with supporting brief. And see where we
4 go.

5 Yeah?

6 MR. McGEE: Your Honor, I'm sorry, I'm not trying to
7 play musical chairs with the lectern.

8 THE COURT: Go ahead.

9 MR. McGEE: But I know you were giving us 50 -- and
10 this is Ryan McGee.

11 You were giving us 50 pages for the opposition.

12 THE COURT: Yeah.

13 MR. McGEE: But now we've got the -- will we have
14 five supplemental briefs, will we have 50 supplemental briefs.
15 And I don't want to overthink that, Your Honor, but --

16 THE COURT: If you really can't get it done in 50
17 pages, file a motion. Okay?

18 MR. McGEE: Understood, Judge.

19 THE COURT: You're all experienced lawyers. If you
20 can't tell me in 50 pages your position, I'm just really
21 shocked.

22 MR. McGEE: I prefer brevity, Your Honor. I'm just
23 making sure that --

24 THE COURT: I'm a firm believer in brevity.

25 MR. McGEE: I'm just --

1 THE COURT: Everybody go home tonight and read Rule 1
2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, all right, if you
3 haven't checked it out recently.

4 MR. McGEE: Sure thing.

5 MR. KIMREY: A few issues, Your Honor.

6 With respect to the nonfacial constitutional
7 challenge joining --

8 THE COURT: Right.

9 MR. KIMREY: -- movants whose motions, if any, are
10 due on June 14th now, are those be going to be entered and
11 continued pending the Court's --

12 THE COURT: No. The motions on June -- yeah.

13 Any motion that doesn't involve -- that isn't
14 involved in the facial challenge, after the motion and the
15 brief is filed, everything else is going to be stayed.

16 MR. KIMREY: Got it.

17 THE COURT: Everything will be stayed.

18 MR. KIMREY: So entered and continued.

19 THE COURT: I just want that on the record. You've
20 either got to choose, facial challenge, that's it.

21 If you're not going to -- let's put on -- put your
22 cards on the table about what else.

23 Now, if you file a facial challenge and -- you're not
24 waiving your other challenges, other defenses you may have.
25 And I'll put that in the order.

1 So the people who file facial challenges, assuming
2 the statute is held to be constitutional, you'll be able to
3 file your motions at a later time, dealing with as applied,
4 venue, personal jurisdiction, whatever other defense you can
5 think about.

6 MR. KIMREY: Arbitrability.

7 THE COURT: Whatever.

8 MR. KIMREY: Okay. Got it.

9 THE COURT: So -- and there's not going to be any
10 waiver. I just want to try to focus on this one issue. And
11 we'll have these dates.

12 And I'll put this all in an order in the next couple
13 of days.

14 The remand motion is going to wait a couple days
15 because we're going to try to have plaintiffs' counsel and
16 defense counsel agree on the request for production, and
17 everybody will have a bite at the apple on that.

18 And then I'll probably on Monday or so enter the
19 scheduling order on the remand.

20 On the facial challenge, that I'm going to enter in
21 the next couple of days, to get the ball rolling on that.

22 So we'll have the appropriate stays, everything else.

23 And then once I get the briefs, we'll obviously set a
24 date for oral argument. I'm not going to do that today.

25 MR. KIMREY: Another question, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Yeah.

2 MR. KIMREY: Thanks for being so patient with me.

3 THE COURT: No. It's complicated, so I want to make
4 sure we cover all the bases.

5 MR. KIMREY: So with respect to the reply deadline on
6 the facial constitutional challenges, so the defense reply
7 deadline you said is July 30th. And you said that would be
8 limited to 25 pages.

9 THE COURT: Right.

10 MR. KIMREY: What about replies as to those ten-page
11 supplementals that were filed on June 14th? Will there be no
12 replies on those, or will there be a deadline for --

13 THE COURT: Yeah. Everything will be July 30th.

14 MR. KIMREY: Okay. So then if it's -- and we'll try
15 our hardest to give a consolidated reply, Your Honor, but --

16 THE COURT: I would just say all reply briefs,
17 whatever they're going to be, would be on July 30th.

18 MR. KIMREY: Okay. And what is the page limit for
19 the nonconsolidated replies?

20 THE COURT: Why don't we just make it 20.

21 The nonconsolidated -- were you going to -- what do
22 you want?

23 MR. KIMREY: 10? 10? For symmetry.

24 THE COURT: All right. 10 pages.

25 All right. Does that take care of everything on

1 the -- and as I said, I'll enter an order and hope there
2 wouldn't be any errors in timing. But if there are, you know
3 where you can find me. We'll get it corrected.

4 MR. KIMREY: So this is probably relevant to all of
5 us.

6 Are we operating under an assumption that the
7 District of New Jersey rules apply, or are we operating under
8 an assumption that the Eastern District of Pennsylvania rules
9 apply?

10 THE COURT: The New Jersey rules apply as modified by
11 me.

12 MR. KIMREY: Okay. So unless expressly modified by
13 you on the record or in an order --

14 THE COURT: What specific rule are you thinking about
15 that I may not be specifically aware of that you want to take
16 advantage of?

17 MR. KIMREY: So it's not -- so I think the point size
18 requirements are different.

19 THE COURT: Look, guys, you know what? There's such
20 a thing as a rule of reason.

21 If I can't read it with my glasses, I'll send it back
22 and reject it. All right?

23 MR. KIMREY: Do you like 14 or 12, Your Honor?

24 THE COURT: I don't -- look. We don't have to get
25 into that kind of detail.

1 MR. KIMREY: Okay.

2 THE COURT: Use your good judgment.

3 MR. KIMREY: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: And, you know, double spaced, no single
5 spaced.

6 MR. KIMREY: Got it.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, Raj Parikh again.

9 Just one last issue with respect to the schedule.

10 I think Your Honor said that the defendants are going
11 to notify the Attorney General of the issue and provide them
12 with the schedule.

13 I don't know that there was a deadline for that. And
14 if Your Honor --

15 THE COURT: Well, I'll put that in my order, I'll
16 just say promptly.

17 MR. PARIKH: That makes sense. And --

18 THE COURT: The defendants will have to notify --
19 formally notify the Attorney General of New Jersey.

20 MR. PARIKH: And, Your Honor, if they notify the
21 Attorney General by May 15th, then it fits within Your Honor's
22 schedule that the Attorney General's office will have 60 days
23 within which to consider pursuant to the rules whether or not
24 they seek --

25 (Court reporter clarification.)

1 MR. PARIKH: The attorney general's office will have
2 their 60 days to decide whether to intervene.

3 THE COURT: What rule is this you're referring to?

4 MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, I think it's Rule 5.1, and
5 then there's a New Jersey state statute with respect to this
6 as well.

7 THE COURT: We'll get it out -- yeah. We want to
8 give the Attorney General plenty of time.

9 MR. PARIKH: Thank you, Judge.

10 MR. STIO: Your Honor, maybe this is semantics, but
11 the rule calls for the Court to certify it to the Attorney
12 General. So maybe we'll --

13 THE COURT: How do I certify it to the Attorney
14 General?

15 MR. STIO: What I'm saying is the defendants will
16 give notice to the Attorney General.

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MR. STIO: And say that the Court has certified this.
19 Or direct -- ordered us and certified this to be submitted to
20 you.

21 THE COURT: Okay. I'll take a look at it. Thank
22 you. We'll try to conform to that so that the Attorney
23 General gets not just noticed by rumor but by formal. Very
24 good.

25 MR. LEE: LexisNexis?

1 THE COURT: All right. That takes care of that
2 issue.

3 Now -- oh, also I got a letter from the Delvepoint
4 attorney. I assume that what I've said here covers all that.

5 Maybe we hear from him first.

6 MR. COSGROVE: Good afternoon, Judge.

7 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

8 MR. COSGROVE: Bob Cosgrove for Delvepoint.

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 MR. COSGROVE: Yes, Judge. We in response to the
11 complaint when we removed the case to federal court filed the
12 12(b)(6) motion challenging the constitutionality of the
13 statute.

14 THE COURT: You have. You were ahead of the --

15 MR. COSGROVE: We did, Judge, yes. We complied with
16 the rules, and that was our answer or response to the
17 complaint.

18 I recognize, as I've said to my colleagues, that many
19 people here have many different issues, much greater than my
20 clients, so we'll abide by the briefing schedule set by Your
21 Honor in respect of that.

22 I don't think to the extent the arguments are
23 different in the consolidated brief, we'll just do a "me too"
24 in our extra deadline, say we incorporate by reference our
25 12(b)(6) motion.

1 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

2 MR. COSGROVE: And if not, we'll deal with it
3 accordingly.

4 THE COURT: All right. Sounds good. Thank you very
5 much.

6 All right, John Doe v. LexisNexis.

7 MR. LEE: Good afternoon, Your Honor, James Lee from
8 Boies Schiller for the plaintiffs.

9 This is the case I think Your Honor is aware --

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MR. LEE: -- that's not -- it's the class action.

12 THE COURT: Right.

13 MR. LEE: And I think you recall, Judge, the last
14 time I told you, given that these are credit report issues,
15 that time is of the essence.

16 THE COURT: Well, one of the -- before we get to
17 that --

18 MR. LEE: Sure.

19 THE COURT: -- I wanted to ask, there's no motion to
20 remand, because I don't think my order actually covered your
21 case.

22 Now, are you going to, Mr. Shaw, move to remand?
23 Because my understanding is Atlas is a citizen of New Jersey
24 and so is Lexis a citizen of New Jersey.

25 So is that going to be an issue?

1 MR. LEE: It's not going to be an issue, Judge.

2 THE COURT: Okay. You're not going to move to
3 remand?

4 MR. LEE: No.

5 THE COURT: Okay, fine.

6 MR. LEE: Because it's a class action, the CAFA rules
7 apply.

8 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Very good.

9 MR. LEE: So as I said, Judge, the time is of the
10 essence right now, and we want to make sure that this case
11 tracks or -- separately from the other group of cases.

12 THE COURT: I understand.

13 MR. LEE: So I think really all we need to do for
14 today housekeeping wise is come up with a briefing schedule.

15 And it may be overambitious --

16 THE COURT: You mean on class certification?

17 MR. LEE: No. Just motion to dismiss. The last time
18 we were here, counsel for LexisNexis said LexisNexis --

19 THE COURT: Oh, I see. They were going to move to
20 dismiss.

21 MR. LEE: -- was prepared to move to dismiss. That
22 was two weeks ago.

23 THE COURT: Right.

24 MR. LEE: We all agreed that we would nail down a
25 briefing schedule at this hearing.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. LEE: So I think that's all we really need to do.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. LEE: What I recommend, Judge, though, is really
5 because we're also separate firms and we have to handle a lot
6 of paper it looks like on pretty short notices, we would
7 actually ask that because time is of the essence and we know
8 the constitutional briefing is going to happen, you know,
9 starting June 10th, that we move on a more accelerated
10 briefing schedule for LexisNexis, starting maybe in late May.
11 That way we can sort of stagger the briefing, and we'll have
12 time --

13 THE COURT: When was that complaint filed? Or when
14 was it served, if that's more appropriate? When was it
15 served?

16 MR. LEE: It's been a couple of months. I can say
17 that.

18 THE COURT: It was served a couple months ago?

19 MR. LEE: Yes.

20 MR. ROONEY: It was -- the complaint was filed --

21 THE COURT: Give us your name again.

22 MR. ROONEY: I'm sorry. Gavin Rooney on behalf of
23 LexisNexis.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 MR. ROONEY: The complaint was filed on the 4th of

1 March, and it was served I think about a week or ten days
2 thereafter.

3 THE COURT: Mid March, right. Okay. All right.

4 Let's see what Mr. Rooney has to say.

5 MR. ROONEY: Thank you, Your Honor. Again, Gavin
6 Rooney on behalf of LexisNexis.

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 MR. ROONEY: So let me address the time is of the
9 essence issue and just lay the foundation here.

10 So when 47,000 requests came in by 47,000 separate
11 emails on a single day when my client returned from the New
12 Year's holiday --

13 THE COURT: Right.

14 MR. ROONEY: -- they moved expeditiously to remove
15 home address information.

16 One way in which home address information is made
17 available is through a credit report.

18 There is no carveout in Daniel's Law for the matters
19 covered by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act or FCRA.
20 Many state privacy statutes have that kind of carveout. This
21 statute does not.

22 So my client implemented a freeze pursuant to the
23 security freeze provisions of FCRA to freeze that credit
24 information in order to keep the home address information from
25 being disseminated.

1 Home address information is an integral part of every
2 credit report in order to authenticate who the person is.

3 Importantly, though, when that happened, every single
4 person received an email response from LexisNexis. Every
5 single person received information about how to lift the
6 credit freeze if they wanted to lift it.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. ROONEY: And they were given a tracking PIN,
9 personal identification number, to make it easy for them to
10 contact LexisNexis and say, I'd like to have the freeze
11 lifted.

12 Since that time, many, many, many of these
13 individuals have contacted LexisNexis, and LexisNexis has
14 expeditiously removed those credit freezes.

15 THE COURT: Right.

16 MR. ROONEY: So the only thing we have left today are
17 the people who reached out and asked not to have their home
18 address information circulated and those who in response to
19 our email did not ask to have the freeze lifted.

20 Since we're speaking about individual choice here,
21 one can only presume those individuals have chosen to leave
22 the freezes in place.

23 In terms of -- so that should address the time of the
24 essence. Anyone who wants their credit freeze lifted has the
25 ability to do so immediately without having to come to court.

1 We gave them the information to do it, and they have chosen
2 not to do it.

3 Number two, there's no application for emergent
4 relief here. It's a damages action. So if there had been
5 some time of the essence issue, presumably that would be the
6 question.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. ROONEY: Now, let me turn to the schedule.

9 We first of all have a problem which Your Honor noted
10 indirectly when you read the name of the case. We don't know
11 who the plaintiffs are. We have a due process right to know
12 who is suing us. There's not even a basis to seal the
13 complaint or to use a John Doe pleading to protect the privacy
14 of these individuals under Third Circuit authority. So I
15 don't think even the public version of the complaint should be
16 a John Doe complaint. The public is entitled to know who is
17 using the courts. That's a First Amendment issue. And
18 moreover, we certainly have a due process right to know who is
19 suing us.

20 Why is that important? Well, I want to know, did
21 these individuals actually make a request to have their
22 information removed.

23 Number two, did we send them an email saying, hey,
24 this is how you remove the freeze if you want to do it.

25 Number three, did they make a request to figure

1 out -- to lift their freeze.

2 I need to know the names of these individuals in
3 order to do that sort of investigation.

4 THE COURT: Right.

5 MR. ROONEY: And that's a necessary part of preparing
6 a motion to dismiss or an answer to the complaint so we can
7 figure out what happened with respect to these named
8 plaintiffs.

9 THE COURT: Could you file a motion to dismiss on the
10 ground that there's no plaintiff?

11 MR. ROONEY: I suppose one could. But it would be
12 hard for me to address that, because we also have a motion to
13 dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, which I think I'd
14 have to file first.

15 For some reason I don't understand, the plaintiffs
16 sued the wrong entity. They sued an entity that does not
17 provide credit information, when our emails -- which, by the
18 way, are quoted in the complaint -- clearly state a different
19 corporate entity.

20 THE COURT: Well --

21 MR. ROONEY: So I'm going to file a motion to dismiss
22 on behalf of the wrong company that was sued.

23 THE COURT: So that's what you intend to do?

24 MR. ROONEY: And in addition, we also have a motion
25 to dismiss under 12(b) (6) for several reasons. One, this area

1 of security freezes is expressly preempted by FCRA.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. ROONEY: FCRA has a list of subject matter areas
4 that are expressly preempted. And I read Your Honor's prior
5 opinion on one of those areas in another case.

6 And the business of credit freezes is within the
7 scope of what is expressly preempted, so there's no room for
8 state law. The complaint proceeds on a state law basis.

9 THE COURT: Right.

10 MR. ROONEY: So we have preemption.

11 We also have the fact that there's not even a facial
12 violation of the state statute being asserted. There is no
13 obligation of law to make credit information available.

14 THE COURT: What about the -- so you're ready to
15 proceed with an anonymous plaintiff at this point?

16 MR. ROONEY: No. I want to know who the plaintiffs
17 are. That was my first point, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. ROONEY: I can't really evaluate -- those are
20 grounds I know of right now.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 MR. ROONEY: There may be other grounds I'm entitled
23 to know.

24 THE COURT: Shouldn't that be included in your
25 motion? I mean, I understand you want to know.

1 MR. ROONEY: Yes.

2 THE COURT: But the vehicle to get the answer if
3 they're not amending the complaint is for you to file a motion
4 of some kind, isn't there?

5 MR. ROONEY: I could file the motion, although I
6 think it's the plaintiffs' obligation to file a motion to seal
7 the information.

8 THE COURT: To seal -- the complaint is -- seal what
9 information?

10 MR. ROONEY: No. But -- the names of the plaintiffs.
11 By filing a copy of the complaint that says John Doe, they
12 are effectively sealing the identity of litigants.

13 THE COURT: I must confess, I've had many cases where
14 there have been John Doe defendants.

15 MR. ROONEY: For statute of limitations purposes,
16 because you don't know who they are.

17 THE COURT: A lot of John Doe defendants in cases.

18 MR. ROONEY: Right.

19 THE COURT: I don't know that I've ever had a case
20 where there's just been a John Doe plaintiff.

21 MR. ROONEY: There -- yes.

22 THE COURT: Somebody's -- I mean, we could just sit
23 here. You say they have the obligation, you have the
24 obligation.

25 Somebody's got to file something. And if they don't

1 do it, you've got to file a motion. You're the one who wants
2 to have this case dismissed.

3 MR. ROONEY: Okay.

4 THE COURT: So, I mean --

5 MR. ROONEY: Your Honor, I'll include --

6 THE COURT: I can sit here and answer the question as
7 to who has to go first --

8 MR. ROONEY: Well --

9 THE COURT: -- about briefing.

10 MR. ROONEY: I'll be happy to make that part of our
11 motion practice.

12 THE COURT: Yeah.

13 MR. ROONEY: If Your Honor wants to proceed on a
14 third track with this case notwithstanding the motion to
15 remand and the First Amendment motion.

16 THE COURT: Well, I don't know that it's a third
17 track. It's just one of your -- it seems to me one of your
18 defenses here that you can't go forward without knowing
19 who the plaintiffs are.

20 MR. ROONEY: Yes. So I'll address as many grounds as
21 I can in the motion.

22 THE COURT: So --

23 MR. ROONEY: But I would request in terms of the
24 briefing schedule to make it the 10th of June, which is when
25 the First Amendment motion is done, because I don't think

1 there's a reason to move more quickly than that.

2 THE COURT: Well, I don't know that --

3 MR. ROONEY: Which is about a month.

4 THE COURT: -- they have anything to do with each
5 other. Yours is a separate case.

6 MR. ROONEY: It is a separate case, but I'd like 30
7 days in which to prepare our motions. Remember, I talked
8 about a personal jurisdiction motion and then there's a
9 12(b) (6) motion, and now while I thought we'd resolve the John
10 Doe issue here today, there will evidently be a third motion
11 on that.

12 THE COURT: Why don't you file your motion by Monday,
13 June 3rd.

14 MR. ROONEY: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Monday, June 3rd. And then how much time
16 do you need --

17 MR. LEE: 21 days?

18 THE COURT: 21st of June?

19 MR. LEE: Fine, Judge.

20 THE COURT: 21st of June. And any reply brief by the
21 28th of June.

22 MR. ROONEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. Does that conclude our
24 business for today?

25 MR. LEE: Judge, I need two minutes, less than two

1 minutes.

2 THE COURT: That's all right.

3 MR. LEE: There was a lot said by counsel just now
4 about I guess the order of operations in which this all
5 happened.

6 THE COURT: Look, you don't have to worry about it.

7 It's not -- just file your response to the motion. It's just
8 a statement he made. You're not going to be prejudiced by not
9 having to answer what he said.

10 MR. LEE: I will keep it in the chamber.

11 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

12 MR. LEE: Thank you, Judge.

13 THE COURT: All right. Is there anything else we
14 need to do for the good of the order this afternoon?

15 (No response.)

16 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

17 THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.

18 (Proceedings concluded at 3:55 p.m.)

19 - - -

20 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
21 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

22

23

24 /S/ Ann Marie Mitchell 9th day of May, 2024

25 *Court Reporter/Transcriber* *Date*

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